

JPRS-LAM-84-099

31 August 1984

# Latin America Report

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31 August 1984

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TRINIDAD ACKNOWLEDGES BARBADOS CONCILIATION EFFORTS

Port-of-Spain EXPRESS in English 20 Jul 84 p 10

[Text]

**BRIDGETOWN, (CANA)** — Barbados is taking the initiative in efforts to smooth ruffled relations with Caricom neighbour Trinidad and Tobago.

The Tom Adams government says it wants to begin discussions with Port of Spain, which could lead to an updating of their 5-year-old bilateral cooperation agreement.

Barbados Deputy Prime Minister Bernard St John told reporters that projects covered under their 1979 memorandum of understanding were coming to fruition, and also because world conditions had changed

since 1979, his government wanted to discuss with Trinidad and Tobago how they could strengthen and improve their cooperation.

"...I believe a lot of the misunderstandings that have arisen would have been solved had those bilateral talks that we requested as long ago as May 1983 taken place..." St John said.

He said Port of Spain's response to the Bridgetown proposal has been positive, but the hold-up was a "mutually

acceptable" date for the talks to start.

Barbados again raised the proposal during this month's series of high-level Caribbean Community meetings in the Bahamas.

Asked if reported personal differences between Barbados' Prime Minister Adams and his Trinidad counterpart George Chambers constituted an obstacle, St John said he did not accept that the differences existed.

He added: "...even if there are personal differences, I don't see how the relationship between two countries can be dictated to by the personal viewpoints of two individuals. I don't believe that. That is nonsense."

Under the 1979 accord signed by Adams and the late Trinidadian Prime Minister Dr Eric Williams, the two countries agreed to cooperate in a wide range of areas including agriculture, industry, insurance, and aviation.

A \$100 million (U.S.) Arawak cement plant, which started operations here earlier this year, is a product of that accord. It is owned jointly by the two governments.

Barbados-Trinidad relations soured in the wake of last October's U.S.-led invasion of neighbouring Grenada, to put down a leftist military junta that took over the government, killing the prime minister in the process.

Barbados and six other Caribbean countries supported and or participated in the operation, which was opposed by Prime Minister Chambers. The intervention produced a diplomatic incident which saw Barbados asking for the recall from Bridgetown of Port of Spain's resident ambassador.

Since then trade restrictions imposed by Trinidad have had the effect of slowing the flow of Barbados goods to Port of Spain, and last month a controversy blew up in the Trinidad press over allegations — since denied — that Barbados was to prevent the Trinidad national airline, BWIA from stopping here on Saturdays.

While Caricom Heads of Government at their Nassau summit agreed to remove impediments to increased intraregional trade, Adams and Cham-

bers failed to seize the opportunity for what could have been useful bilateral talks.

And though resolved at the official level, the misunderstanding over the BWIA route issue is still having its effects on Barbados-Trinidad relations.

Trinidad was third after the United States and Canada in providing tourists to Barbados last year. The 50,000 visitors who came from the twin island Caricom state — out of a total of 328,338 — are on the wane this year. The falloff was 7.9 per cent for the first three months of 1984.

The Barbados Board of Tourism and the Hotel Association, fearing a further decline from the ill feeling generated in Port of Spain by the Trinidad press reports dispatched a mission to Port of Spain.

St John accused the Trinidadian press of "total irresponsibility" in its handling of the issue and said if they were ethical, they would have adverted to documented evidence provided by Barbados that no Barbadian official announced any ban on "Bee Wee".

DLP LEADER TAITT TO OPEN DIALOGUE WITH TRINIDAD-TOBAGO

Bridgetown BARBADOS ADVOCATE in English 14 Jul 84 p 2

[Text] Democratic Labour Party (DLP) has said it will be pursuing plans for opening dialogue with Trinidad and Tobago on behalf of Barbados.

DLP President Branford Taitt told a meeting of his party at Boscobelle last Thursday night his party will be telling Trinidad it could not afford the war of words between that country and Barbados.

Mr Taitt who is managing his party's campaign for the July 19 by-election in St Peter, said invitations will be sent to private sector organisations to accompany his party on a fact finding mission to the twin island Republic.

Said the DLP MP: "Since the Prime Minister and his Minister's cannot talk to the Ministers in Trinidad I am going to go and talk to them for the people of Barbados."

"I am going myself. I give you the pledge from the Democratic Labour Party Platform that I am going to spend the next few weeks pursuing this," he told a large crowd at Boscobelle while wooing their support for DLP's candidate Mrs Sybil Leacock.

He said it was only a matter of time before a point was reached when the people of the two countries would see themselves as enemies.

He said the Caribbean Community, now under stress, was fashioned so member countries could join together economically if not politically, so that countries could develop together.

"That is what Sybil Leacock is asking you, that is what Sybil Leacock is seeking to do. she is seeking to say to the people of St Peter let us join together, let us help the DLP to regain the Government so we can all regain our self respect," Mr Taitt said.

Mr Taitt said he was sometimes very embarrassed when he had to face people from outside of Barbados who raised questions about what he said was the political credibility of the Government.

He said there was corruption in the country.

He told the crowd that the people of Boscobelle did not belong to any politician and they must understand they owed nothing to the politician, rather it was the politician who owed them.

He told the electorate there to give their full support to Mrs Leacock.

The DLP official also dealt with what he termed criticism being levelled at Mrs Leacock that she was old. He said she was just as old as John Turner, the man who had just taken over in Canada, and in emphasising this, said Walter Mondale, the Democratic Presidential candidate had said he was choosing a woman as his running mate in the November polls in the U.S.

In direct reference to the BLP's candidate Owen Arthur, Mr Taitt said one of the lessons he would have to learn was that he would have to show humility before seeking to be a representative.

CSO: 3298/1052



ST JOHN PROMISES ACTION TO REVERSE CARICOM TRADE SLIDE

Bridgetown BARBADOS ADVOCATE in English 14 Jul 84 p 1

[Text] Barbados intends being among the first to implement provisions of an agreement to halt an 18-month decline in trade within the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) and it expects its regional partners to keep their word and remove any barriers to free trade.

"We regard this as a matter of honour and a matter of integrity and commitment and we intend to implement it," Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Trade Mr Bernard St John yesterday told a news conference.

"We do not wish to see any member state not being able to implement this agreement and so we are going to be among the first to implement (it)."

Mr St John was briefing reporters on the outcome of crucial high-level CARICOM meetings, including the Heads of Government Conference which took place in the Bahamas last week.

The meetings produced agreement by member states on how to reactivate trade--the lifeline of the community--an issue that was threatening the future of the 13-nation grouping.

Mr St John said the first phase of the agreement to be fully implemented by January 1, 1985, was the introduction of a common protective regime for some of CARICOM's industrial goods against non regional competition.

Discussions on regimes for two other key areas--agricultural produce and garments are continuing.

Mr St John said pricing of the CARICOM products listed in the new agreement is "reasonably competitive." They have "particularly large" demand, and based on these factors, he expects "a reasonable increase" in trade to result from the new arrangements.

But he said that manufacturers and distributors will have to get out and market the products for the region to reap maximum benefits, since "the most politicians can do is remove barriers and exhort their populations to buy."

Jamaica has asked for a three-year exemption from some provisions of the pact which conflict with its own economic readjustment agreement with the World Bank.

The crisis in CARICOM trade stemmed from a downturn in regional economies which brought on balance of payments and foreign exchange problems for member countries.

The impasse was aggravated by the introduction of new foreign exchange regimes in Jamaica and the decision by Trinidad and Tobago--CARICOM's most lucrative market--to place all CARICOM goods under licence.

Mr St John indicated that if agreement had not been reached, Barbados would have introduced by October 1 this year measures to protect local manufacturers against "unfair restrictions."

"...We said (at the trade ministers meeting in Nassau that the Government of Barbados does not apply restrictions with respect to intra-regional trade. However, in view of the fact that several restrictive measures have been introduced in some member states, Barbados did not undertake to continue its present free access regime," the Deputy Prime Minister said.

Stressing that Barbados is "very serious" on this issue, he said that his government would not have allowed a situation to continue where like goods are traded between Barbados and any country and Barbadian exporters face restrictions while those of the country in question had easy access to Barbados.

Mr St John said the Guyana-based CARICOM Secretariat was in the process of identifying a trade officer whose job will be to monitor progress made by member states between now and January 1, 1985 towards full implementation of the Nassau agreement.

CSO: 3298/1052

DLP WINS ST PETER ELECTION; 'NEW ERA' PREDICTED

Delayed Announcement of Result

Bridgetown SUNDAY ADVOCATE in English 22 Jul 84 p 1

[Text] It was 10.45 a.m. when returning officer Mr Peter Timothy finally declared Mrs Sybil Leacock of the Democratic Labour Party the elected representative of the constituency of St Peter. She won by a single vote.

It marked the end of long hours of vote counting which began last Thursday night and started again Friday afternoon after a recount was requested.

When the doors to the counting centre opened yesterday it was a tired and haggard entourage which spilled out after 18 hours of vote counting. Mr Timothy was the last to emerge and from the top of the staircase at the Alexandra School he read a brief statement.

He said: "These are the results of the polls held for the by-election of a member to serve in the House of Assembly for the constituency of St Peter.

"Mr Owen Arthur (BLP) received 2 764 votes, Mr Martin Cadogan (Independent) 29, Mr Everton Greene (Independent) 20, Mrs Sybil Leacock (DLP) 2 765 and Mr Glenroy Straughn (Independent) 32. The total number of votes was 5 610.

"I therefore declare Mrs Sybil Leacock to be the elected and only duly chosen representative for the constituency of St Peter to serve in the House of Assembly of this island of Barbados."

The most obvious emotion within the gates of Alexandra School after the announcement was relief it was all over.

## Taitt Jubilation

Bridgetown SUNDAY ADVOCATE in English 22 Jul 84 p 1

[Text] The Democratic Labour Party (DLP) fresh from a victory in Thursday's by-election anticipates that the win is the beginning of a whole new era in the country.

A beaming Branford Taitt, Party President, who successfully managed his party's campaign told cheering supporters in Church Street:

"We believe this is the beginning of a whole new era. It has begun here in St Peter as it did for them (BLP) in St Philip," Mr Taitt said. This was in reference to the Barbados Labour Party's victory in the St Philip North by-election in 1976 and the party's subsequent victory in the general election also in that year.

"Today it is St Peter tomorrow the entire country and then we are going to get the Caribbean back together again," he declared.

The narrow victory by Mrs Leacock--she polled 2 765 to Owen Arthur of the BLP 2 764--has turned the tide and provided her party with its first hold on St Peter, a parish regarded as the backbone of the BLP.

This was Mrs Leacock's third attempt at winning the seat having failed on two previous occasions to capture it. In 1976 she polled 2 037 to Mr Burton Hinds' 2 661. In 1981 when she again lost to Mr Hinds she polled 2 307 to Mr Hinds 2 637.

Independent candidate Martin Cadogan got 29 votes. Everton Green 20 votes and Glenroy Straughn 32 votes.

Mr Taitt said it was not a victory which was going to rest easy since he expected the Government will be going into the court any minute to see if it could recapture the seat.

According to him: "They fought us tooth and nail and I have every reason to believe they are going to be trying to do in the court what they obviously could not do in the battlefield."

"That is their problem, they have to go, they have to find out, and when they do they are going to find that Sybil Leacock is going to be formidable as ever," Mr Taitt said.

He described her as a fantastic lady and in direct reference to the campaign Mr Taitt said one had to look at the majority she had to overcome from 1981.

Mr Taitt renewed his call for an Electoral and Boundaries Commission stating that if such a commission was set up chances were that many of the difficulties in the election would not have appeared.

### Mrs Leacock's Concerns

Bridgetown THE NATION in English 23 Jul 84 p 1

[Text] Mrs Sybil Leacock, the newly-elected Democratic Labour Party parliamentarian for St Peter, wants the housing units started at Maynards completed as a matter of urgency.

She told the Daily NATION in an interview that housing, "or lack of it," had been cited by her constituents as one of their major concerns.

Mrs Leacock who defeated the Barbados Labour Party's (BLP) Owen Arthur by one vote (2 765 to 2 764) in a recount Saturday, said: "It has been so for some time. Yet, the ruling Administration started construction of housing units at Maynards, raised the hopes of the people, and when enough votes had not been secured by that party in the last general election, those hopes were dashed by terminating the project."

Mrs Leacock said the excuse was that the Government had run out of money for housing development and that the poor people on the Government housing estates were to be blamed.

Said she: "It is unlikely, very unlikely that a Government would commence a serious project without considering the source of financing for the project."

Government, she noted, "found" \$60 million to build the Heywoods Holiday Resort, \$200 million to build the Arawak Cement Plant, and \$60 million to build a new headquarters for the Central Bank, and \$88 million to build a road.

"Housing," she added, "is so fundamental a need that it should not have to be used for political gimmickry. To find \$500 000 to finish the housing units at Maynards would have been comparatively no problem if the Government had not been playing a game with the people who live in St Peter."

She said that a major development would have to be undertaken to help alleviate the problem of housing which most of the people in St Peter had identified.

While housing was not her particular field of endeavour, she said she knew sufficient to state that there ought to be a sensible policy on mortgage interest rates.

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) low income housing fund was so inept she said, that it was impossible to make use of the funds.

Consumption taxes on building materials and building services should be reduced, she added, to provide decent housing for the people of St Peter and the rest of Barbados.

CSO: 3298/1051



BRIGHT ENERGY PICTURE SEEN FOR PETROLEUM, NATURAL GAS

Oil Production Increase

Bridgetown SUNDAY ADVOCATE in English 15 Jul 84 p 2

[Text] Barbados expects to nearly double its oil production for this year when compared with last year.

In stating this Friday at a press briefing on the performance of the National Petroleum Corporation (NPC), Energy Minister Senator Clyde Griffith disclosed that oil production for the period January to June 1984, has been 304 000 tons compared with 380 000 tons for all of 1983.

"We expect to reach 600 000 tons by the end of this year," Senator Griffith said.

He attributed the increased output to an accelerated drilling and onshore oil exploration programme.

When asked about the results of offshore tests carried out by a Canadian firm early last year, Senator Griffith said he expected these to be soon disclosed and he "might soon have even better things to talk about."

On the question of Government's acquisition or closing down of the Mobil Oil refinery, the Energy Minister said that Government had decided to put this issue "on the back-burner" because of the "political demagoguery" surrounding it.

However, he stated: "We will constantly look at whether operating a refinery in Barbados is feasible."

Senator Griffith said that Government has decided that the regional energy action plan was a worthwhile goal and should be implemented with full Barbados participation. The plan calls for rationalisation of refinery capacity in the Caribbean Community (CARICOM).

The Energy Minister added that it was also recognised that Trinidad and Tobago had the capacity to supply the entire Caribbean with oil products but at present "Trinidad has its problems and we don't know when these will be solved."



He noted that with the coming on stream of the Arawak Cement Plant, Barbados' oil requirements will increase by over 300 000 barrels of fuel oil annually.

Senator Griffith also said that as a result of new policies undertaken by Government last year, some \$4 million had been cut off the island's fuel import bill.

#### NPC Finances

Bridgetown BARBADOS ADVOCATE in English 14 Jul 84 p 1

[Text] A before tax profit of some \$1 million for the financial year 1983-84 was recorded by the National Petroleum Corporation (NPC).

This was said to be higher than the combined profits of the past 15 years of the Corporation's operation.

In stating this yesterday at a press briefing, NPC chairman, Parliamentarian Mr Aaron Truss said that total income from all sources for the year was \$6 million and operating expenses, depreciation and interest charges totalled \$4.9 million, resulting in a profit before tax of \$1.1 million.

Mr Truss said this profit has been ploughed back into the financing of the Corporation's capital expenditure for the year which totalled \$1.3 million.

He also noted that the NPC has projected an amount of \$6 million for its capital expansion programme over the next 18 months. The financing for this expansion is being raised by way of a term loan from the Barbados National Bank.

The loan will be used for the provision of natural gas services to a number of new areas, including Rock Dundo, Friendship, New Orleans, Fairfield, Black Rock, Seclusion Road, Wildey, Eagle Hall, Oistins, Tweedside Road, Glendairy Road, Railway Road, Hillaby, Mose Bottom, Deighton Road, Fire Hill and Henry's Lane.

Mr Truss said this expansion work will require the hiring of about 30 more staff. The present staff complement of the Corporation is 144 people.

He disclosed that last year the NPC sold to the Barbados Light and Power Company 4,760,457 cubic metres of gas worth about \$1.3 million and it was hoped that this volume would double during this year and further contribute to saving scarce foreign reserves.

The total volume of gas sales for 1983-84 was 9,519,147 cubic metres compared with 6,858,318 cubic metres for 1982-83. The Woodbourne Field supplied 96 percent of this and the remainder coming from the Turner hall well.

Mr Truss also said that at last March 31, the 1984 natural gas reserves were estimated at 155 million cubic metres, 147.7 of this attributed to the Woodbourne Field and the remainder to Turner Hall.

#### Natural Gas Distribution

Bridgetown BARBADOS ADVOCATE in English 14 Jul 84 p 1

[Text] Steps are now being taken to establish a restricted distribution system for natural gas to areas of St Andrew, St Thomas and St Philip.

This was disclosed yesterday by chairman of the National Petroleum Corporation, Parliamentarian Mr Aaron Truss, during a press briefing on the Corporation's financial performance for the 1983-84 financial year.

Mr Truss said that additionally, the gas transmission line from Woodbourne to Belle will shortly be replaced by a line with a much larger diameter, thereby facilitating the transmission of a larger volume of gas.

With this new line in place, the existing transmission line will be downgraded and used as a distribution line so that it may be feasible to supply part of the St Philip area, St Patrick's in Christ Church, part of St George and St Michael.

"In other words there is hope for those residents who are located in close proximity to the existing Woodbourne to Belle transmission line," Mr Truss said.

He noted that during 1983-84, residential usage of natural gas decreased from 1 949 695 to 1 918 930 cubic metres; Commercial usage increased from 1 904 952 to 1 977 829 cubic metres while usage by other consumers increased from 3 003 671 to 5 622 388 cubic metres.

During the year, residential service installations were increased from 8 405 to 8 639 and the commercial from 409 to 425. The total number of consumers at March 31, 1984 was 9 068.

Mr Truss said that it made economic sense for all those people who are within reach of natural gas to make immediate use of this fuel. Industries should also give serious consideration to using natural gas or to using dual fuel burners in their plants thereby enabling the use of natural gas and-or another fuel, the NPC chairman advised.

Mr Truss said he was also calling on all commercial banks to give due consideration to applications for loans for the installation of gas under the Home Loan Improvement Scheme being financed by funds from the United States Agency for International Development Programme (USAID).

"It is our understanding that such loans fall within the ambit of the USAID programme and the availability of such assistance to potential natural gas consumers would be of great importance to the corporation in its drive to make gas available to as many consumers as possible," Mr Truss stated.

He also announced that the NPC has just successfully computerised its accounting system and was prepared for the increased level of activity.

#### LPG Study

Bridgetown BARBADOS ADVOCATE in English 14 Jul 84 p 1

[Text] A feasibility study on the setting up of a Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) plant is now being carried out and Government expects to make a decision by year-end on whether or not to go ahead with its construction.

This was stated yesterday by Minister responsible for Energy and Planning, Senator Clyde Griffith, during a press briefing on the performance over the past financial year of the National Petroleum Corporation (NPC).

Senator Griffith said that Government had taken a decision since 1979 to consider setting up the LPG plant but financial considerations led to the postponement of plans. He added that there was also a need to obtain firm figures about Barbados' natural gas reserves.

Studies and drilling tests have now disclosed that the gas reserves are at least 155 million cubic metres, a figure which was expected to rise as further drilling tests were carried out, Senator Griffith told the media representatives present at the NPC's Wilkey headquarters.

The Energy Minister said that the LPG plant was estimated to cost about \$2 million to set up and construction would take about six months.

He disclosed that Barbados currently imported about \$9 million worth of bottled natural gas but said that he could not state what would be the total savings on this when a local plant was set up.

Senator Griffith, in responding to a question about the number of different "heads" currently used on small gas bottles, said that his Ministry, in conjunction with the Ministry of Consumer Affairs and the Barbados National Standards Institute, will look at ways of reducing the types from three to one, but this will only be done after the LPG plant was set up.

CSO: 3298/1052

BRIEFS

UNION CALL FOR ELECTION--The Barbados Industrial and General Workers Union has stated that the Government should call general elections as soon as possible. This has been stated by the union's president, Mr Bobby Clarke who said that from all indications there had been a swing away from the Government in its "backbone constituency" of St Peter which indicated discontent. Mr Clarke felt that in order to deal with the current problems affecting the country and in an effort to deal with growing unemployment and nationwide discontent Government should call an election. He said that BIGWU was fearful of the happenings in St Peter; the computer mix-up shortly before polling day and the mix-up and controversy in the counting station on Thursday night. Mr Clarke said his union was partly concerned especially when taken against a background of "the Barbados Government proclaiming itself to be the bastion of fair and free elections." [Text] [Bridgetown SUNDAY ADVOCATE in English 22 Jul 84 p 1]

FERTILIZER PROJECT--Hundreds of Barbadian small farmers are expected to benefit financially when a fertiliser bulk purchasing project gets going later this year. This has been stated by Mr Trevor Rudder, Small Farmers Liaison Officer of the Barbados Sugar Producers Association. According to Mr Rudder, a group of 18 St Andrew farmers recently received a large supply of the commodity which was brought to the island and purchased by the group at the Bridgetown port. He said that this was the first time in the history of local farming that a select group of small farmers got together and bought fertiliser. However, Mr Rudder said that the deadline for buying fertiliser for this year had already passed, and therefore small farmers interested in the project would have to wait until next year before they could obtain any supplies under the plan. He said that this should not distract those who are interested from getting in contact with him, since vital information can be obtained on the benefits that can be derived by their participation. [Text] [Bridgetown BARBADOS ADVOCATE in English 13 Jul 84 p 1]

COTTON HARVEST--Barbados has only been able to reap 50 acres of a 200 acre Sea Island cotton crop being grown for the Japanese market. Mr Shigeo Suzuki, Barbados' honorary consul in Japan said the poor crop had been the result of bad weather conditions. But, he said he had been assured by Minister of Agriculture Dr Richard (Johnny) Cheltenham that the acreage would be increased to a minimum of between 300 and 400 next crop and within two years it would be increased to 500 acres or more. Sea Island cotton

is very popular in Japan, where a corporation has been established called Co-operative West Indian Sea Island Cotton Japan Project which has 36 members and produces some 38 items including men's, women's and children's clothing. Mr Suzuki said that the Japanese market needed 500 000 pounds of Sea Island cotton a year. Meanwhile, when he meets with Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Tourism Mr Bernard St John today he intends to discuss the promotion of Barbados as a tourist destination in Japan. Mr Suzuki said he had already organised a small display in his Tokyo office advertising Barbados and the rest of the Caribbean. [Text] [Bridgetown BARBADOS ADVOCATE in English 20 Jul 84 p 1]

CSO: 3298/1053



POSSIBLE PROGRESS IN UK-GUATEMALA TALKS ON BELIZE NOTED

Belize City DISWEEK in English 20 Jul 84 pp 9, 11

[Text] Disweek has learnt that Guatemala is seriously contemplating resuming consular relations with Britain. Guatemala broke off such ties with Britain in 1981 when Belize gained its Independence.

The resumption of such ties coupled with the frequency of recent dialogue with Belize and Britain could indicate that a breakthrough in the dispute by Guatemala with Belize is imminent. Guatemala may just be ready to respect Belize as a sovereign and independent nation with all its territory intact.

On July 6 in New York City the second round of talks for this year took place between Belize and Guatemala with Britain as observer. The talks were aimed at working out practical arrangements on the common boundary between the two countries. The talks were cordial and informative, said a Foreign Ministry spokesman.

Early in May a first round of talks took place. In both instances Belize remained firm that our territorial integrity will not be compromised and that no land will be ceded to Guatemala.

The recent elections in Guatemala and the drafting of a new constitution there also paves the way for an end to the unfounded claim by Guatemala to part of our territory. One could only hope that dialogue continues for a negotiated solution.

Belize's Ambassador to the United Nations, Mr Robert Leslie, led the Belize delegation to the latest round of talks. He was accompanied by Mr Telford Vernon, Deputy Financial Secretary.

Representing Guatemala were Alonzo Lima, Advisor to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Colonel Granajo Morales, Commander of Military Zone 1 in Guatemala City, Arturo Fajardo Maldonado, Guatemala's Ambassador to the United Nations, Juan Luis Orantex Luna, Ambassador and Director for Central America and the Caribbean in the Guatemalan Foreign Ministry and Julio Yon Rivera, Lieutenant in the Guatemalan Navy.

The British observers were: Brian White, David Anderson and Hugh Mortimer from the British and Commonwealth Office.

CSO: 3298/1054



PUP TURNS CONTROL OF GOVERNMENT OVER TO IMF

Belize City THE BEACON in English 7 Jul 84 pp 2, 11

[Unsigned column "Viewpoint": "IMF--Last Stop for a Bankrupt Economy"]

[Text]

The news that the ruling triumpherate of the PUP, Assad Shoman (left), George Price (center) and Louis Sylvestre (right) have handed the running of the Belizean economy over to the IMF is as shocking as it is unwelcomed.

This announcement that the IMF was now in fact, at the controls, was a public confession both on the national and international levels by the beleaguered PUP government, that it no longer considers itself competent to run the country's economic affairs, and a public and shameless admission both nationally and internationally that it has no solutions to the country's economic problems.

The IMF has a reputation of being the Shylock of the international world, that invariably and without failure demands and gets its pound of flesh. The dreaded IMF is recognised worldwide to be a casualty department for sick and dying economies, that bleeds the ailing country to death, by rigid, merciless and inflexible demand that the already scarce resources of the country and that any loan which it provides, be used to pay off the country's international debt, even if it means laying off workers, shutting down firms, businesses, and industries and causing widespread starvation, suffering and riots, and putting the price of the basic necessities of life far beyond the reach of the poor and helpless workers.

In short, the IMF acts not only as a lender of money of last resort, it also acts as a receiver in bankruptcy, whose job it is to take over and manage the economy of the country during the period of economic crisis. The formula used by the IMF in dealing with profligate and prodigal governments is simple and easy to understand. It insists that the country live or die within its means. That it spends what it earns and not a penny more until its debts are paid off. Translated into day to day action this formula means that any country which is so unfortunate as to find itself in the iron grip of the IMF can expect the following things to happen:

1. Drastic increases in taxation.
2. Heavy import duty imposed on all goods, except necessities.
3. Devaluation of the country's currency to make sure that the nominal value of the country's currency is brought into line with its real value as determined by demand and supply on the international market.
4. Strict insistence that debts owed be paid off as they become due.
5. Freezing of all wages of workers in the public sector for an indefinite period.
6. Implementation of harsh, even stringent measures to cut down on ministerial stealing and ministerial waste.
7. Harsh and stringent measures to prevent waste in the public sector.
8. Laying off of workers and shutting down of non-essential works in the public sector.

The first measure imposed by the IMF on the Belize government is that the Belize Government raise and have ready for IMF's inspection, an additional sum of Fifteen Million Dollars in twelve months. That is, the workers and consumers of Belize are expected to fork out \$1,250,00 more in taxes every month or \$312,500 per week or \$44,644 per day in taxes including Sundays. This is merely a test to see if the government of Belize means business. If they fail this test, as they surely will, the IMF will wash its hands of the country of Belize. If they pass the test, then the IMF will start implementing the real and drastic measures needed to haul the country out of the economic mess Price Escalante and his smartness has gotten us in. There is one additional point; Shoman, Sylvestre and Price are so filled with a false sense of their ability that they hope to outsmart the IMF. They have no intention of going

through with the IMF's measures. They are using the IMF to buy time. The country's reserves are now almost totally depleted. The stock of hard currency needed to buy foreign goods such as food, clothing, medicines, fuel etc., is almost completely exhausted. And with the cut-off of credit to Belize, money just would not have been available in the months ahead to buy the country food and medical supplies. By going to the IMF, Mr. Shoman, Mr. Sylvestre and Mr. Price hope to keep a thin line of credit open. Many experts feel that it is already too late, that the people of Belize are in for some hard times ahead.

CSO: 3298/1054

BELIZE

UDP LEADER TO RUN FOR FREETOWN IN GENERAL ELECTION

Belize City THE BEACON in English 7 Jul 84 p 1

[Text] Belize City, Sun., July 1--Senator Manuel Esquivel, Leader of the United Democratic Party (UDP) was today elected to represent the party in the Freetown Division for the upcoming general elections.

The open air convention, which was held at the Lopez Mateos Park in the King's Park area was packed with candidates and delegates from divisions all over the country. A number of candidates addressed the historical convention, pledging their wholehearted support for the UDP leadership.

Main addresses were delivered by Leader of the Opposition Hon Curl Thompson and Party Chairman Dean R. Lindo.

Party Leader Manuel Esquivel, who also addressed the convention was greeted with prolonged applause by the lively gathering.

Obviously the UDP is healthy and on the move.

CSO: 3298/1054

## BELIZE

### REPORT PROVIDES DETAILS OF MUSA'S VISIT TO JAPAN

Belize City BELIZE SUNDAY TIMES in English 8 Jul 84 pp 1, 3

[Text] The Minister of Education and Economic Development Mr Said Musa, commenting on a recent visit to the Far East described it as "extremely useful and important." He said that he saw the visit as opening doors for future cooperation.

A Belize delegation headed by the Minister returned to Belize last week.

His meeting with government representatives and ranking officials has indicated great interest on the part of Japan to strengthen relations with Belize, Minister Musa said.

While in Japan the Belize delegation held discussions with the Director General of the Overseas Economic Co-operation Fund, the Managing Director of Japan's International Co-operation Agency and the Managing Director of the Federation of Economic Organizations.

The discussion centered on future Japanese economic cooperation programmes with Belize and technical assistance in various fields including science and technology, agro-industrial development, health and education.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan also confirmed that Japan will assist Belize with \$60,000 worth of equipment for the establishment of a video production center.

The Minister was presented with a gift of some \$9,000 from the Belize-Japan Friendship Association for the development of sports in Belize with particular reference to Belize's participation in the Olympics.

In Hong Kong, the delegation met with a number of businessmen who expressed strong interest in possible investments here. Members of the Kowloon Chamber of Commerce were addressed by Minister Musa, Permanent Secretary, Foreign Affairs, Everal Waight, the President of the Private Sector Organization, Mr Victor Usher, and Chinese-Belizean businessman, Mr William Quinto.

The delegation was in Japan on the occasion of the opening of a Belize office in Tokyo by the Honorary Consul for Belize in Japan, Mr Yasuo Inaba.

Minister Musa and other members of the Belize delegation who visited Japan and Hong Kong on their way back to Belize, stopped off in New Orleans to visit the Belize Pavillion at the World Exposition.

CSO: 3298/1054



ECONOMY SHOWS GAINS ACCORDING TO STATISTICAL OFFICE

Belize City DISWEEK in English 20 Jul 84 p 1

[Text] Belize's export earnings for domestic products increased for the first part of 1984. We earned 18 percent more by June of this year than in the first six months of 1983.

Better export prices for sugar, molasses and citrus concentrate and increases in garment exports to the United States account for the rise in earnings. According to preliminary figures from the Central Statistical Office, our domestic exports brought in Bze \$72.2 million from January to June 1984 in comparison to Bze \$62 million earned in the first half of 1983.

Although Tower Hill produced 7,876 tons of sugar less than last year and closed prematurely because of wet roads, and Libertad closed early without meeting its quota, the sugar industry earned an average of \$25 more per long ton of sugar this year than last year. (\$626 in 1983, \$661 in 1984). The average price for molasses was \$54 per long ton in 1983; this year molasses sold for \$79.

The export price for citrus concentrate rose by \$4.50 per gallon in 1984, from \$14.00 in 1983 to \$18.50.

Hopefully this is just the beginning of a strong economic showing for this year.

CSO: 3298/1055

DIPLOMATIC TIES WITH BRAZIL; ITALIAN ENVOY ARRIVES

Belize City BELIZE SUNDAY TIMES in English 29 Jul 84 pp 1, 3

[Text] Diplomatic relations at the ambassadorial level were established Monday between Belize and Brazil.

Brazil's first non-resident ambassador to Belize, Mr Ovidio de Andrade Melo presented his credentials to Governor General, Dr Minita Gordon in Belmopan. The Ambassador was presented to the Governor General by Protocol Officer in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mr Joseph Bulwer.

The Governor General recalled that Brazil was among the many countries that voted for Belize's independence in the General Assembly of the United Nations. She also noted that Brazil sent a high-level three-man delegation to Belize's independence celebrations.

The Governor General said Belize and Brazil can work together for progress, peace and economic development.

The Brazilian ambassador stated that his country wishes to share the same kind of friendly and close relations with Belize that it maintains with other countries of the Americas; relations based on equality, mutual respect, non-interference in internal affairs of other countries, inviolability of national territories, national sovereignty, peace and harmony.

Ambassador Melo said that Brazil can share with Belize the experiences it has acquired in the creation of industrial technology suitable for developing countries.

Ambassador Melo is resident in Kingston, Jamaica. He was accompanied to Belize by his wife Yvony.

Also on Monday, Italy appointed a new non-resident Ambassador to Belize. He is Mr Rosario Guido Nicosia.

The new Italian Ambassador presented his credentials to the Governor General in Belmopan.

The Governor General expressed the hope that Mr Nicosia's appointment will lead to a continuation of the friendly relations that have existed between Belize and Italy.

NEW DRUG LAWS DESIGNED TO APPEASE U.S.

Belize City THE BEACON in English 23 Jun 84 pp 1, 10

[Text] The Belize Government is becoming more and more nervous over the insistence by the United States Drug Enforcement agencies, that the names of high ranking Belizeans believed to be involved in the illegal drug trade be released to the public.

Earlier this year, Commissioner of Police Maxwell Smauels was reluctantly ordered to investigate allegations that certain local officials were involved in drug trafficking, following a \$2.2 billion U.S. cocaine bust in Florida, and the indictment by Florida Police of two officials including the head of the Crimes Investigation Branch Superintendent Vallan Gillett.

Now Belmopan has come up with a couple of red herrings, designed to cool off DEA pressure on more pressing matters.

At the last sitting of the House of Representatives held on Friday last week two bills were tabled, both designed to aid the battle against the widening drug trade.

The first will make it necessary for all owners of airfields or owners or occupiers of land on which airfields are constructed, to register or licence them with the proper authorities.

The second bill seeks to give the Postmaster General the right to open postal packets, parcels and other postal matters, so as to discourage the sending of dangerous drugs through the mail. A law such as this could raise a lot of questions, such as the misuse of the law for political purposes. Furthermore, nobody wants their mails to be tampered with, even officially.

Already opinions have been offered that these two small pieces of legislation will hardly contribute to the slowing down of drug running.

The U.S. Government wants some concrete answers, such as the results of the Police Commissioner's special probe and the exposure of big named Belizeans allegedly involved in the trade.

These, at least, would operate to crack the local drug ring right down the middle.

INDEPENDENT BERMUDA MUST 'AVOID BEING U.S. PUPPET'

Hamilton THE WORKERS VOICE in English 22 Jun 84 p 3

[Alvin Williams column "The Other Alternative"]

[Excerpts] It is quite clear that Bermuda is moving upon a course that will inevitably commit it to becoming an independent country; however reluctantly its people seem to view such an eventuality.

The issue of independence is still a great psychological barrier for many Bermudians to surmount, although, for the white Bermudians, it is mainly the fear that they will finally have to come to real terms with the black Bermudians.

It is this duality in the approach to independence that has imposed restraints on how Bermuda's two political parties deal with it as a political issue. The UBP government's position is that it will take steps towards independence when the people of Bermuda wish it. In the meantime, premier Swan, as an act of appeasement to the Anglo element of Bermuda's population, can run over to Britain saying he is "reporting to his boss," British prime minister Margaret Thatcher. And, at the same time, he edges closer to the new colonial patron, America.

The PLP is much clearer on the issue of independence, in that they say independence is their goal. But here also, there is hesitation.

In at least three past elections, the issue of independence has never been a significant item in their political campaign.

The only difference between the PLP and the UBP approach to this issue is the PLP's commitment to independence, and the lack of commitment on the part of the UBP.

The PLP has even gone so far as to lay out a scenario, involving a constitutional conference, with the two Bermuda political parties and Britain, followed by a general election, with the winning party forming Bermuda's first government, after independence.

## American Influence

In viewing the overall position of both political parties, it is clear that they are waiting for the people of Bermuda to provide the impetus, forgetting that it is the role of a leadership to be the catalyst.

What kind of shape would an independent Bermuda take? It is obvious that an independent Bermuda will not escape the influence of the United States. Our economic development and trading interests, as well as most aspects of Bermudian life, has umbilically linked us to the United States for the foreseeable future.

Nevertheless, Bermuda can and should have an independent voice, and growing out of that, an independent foreign policy. Such a course will not become a reality for Bermuda if the UBP becomes the government to lead Bermuda to independence.

The present activities of its leader, John Swan, show no independence of thought or action. In my opinion, he was too quick to endorse the American invasion of Grenada, coming out the very same morning with a statement of support for the American action. Up to this day, I don't believe premier Swan arrived at that decision alone. I think a quick call by the American consul was all it took.

At that time, he was even ready to go against the opinion of Britain, which had at first disapproved of the American action. The same Britain that he has frequently used, when the local Anti-apartheid group has tried to get his government to take a position on South Africa. He responds that his hands are tied, as Britain, as the colonial power, controls Bermuda's foreign affairs.

The Anti-apartheid group had to remind him of his slip-up with Grenada, when once again, his government failed to condemn the recent visit to Britain of the South African prime minister. It was left to the Anti-apartheid group, in a coalition with the PLP, the trade unions and religious groups, to send off their own note of protest.

## Canada Has Own Views

The Swan government has made it clear that the day Bermuda goes independent, it will be quite happy to have the United States as a patron.

Are there examples of other countries being independent in the shadow of a powerful neighbour? Canada is one such example. It has close military and economic links with the United States. But that does not mean that Canada endorses every American policy.

So there is the possibility of pursuing an independent foreign policy with a powerful nation as your neighbour.

However, we will never be able to secure an independent path if we show that we are willing to be a puppet to outside interests.

The time is now, to establish an independent Bermudian voice, to show at least that we regard the prospect of Bermudian independence as a reality, rather than as an illusion.

CSO: 3298/1056



MATERIAL ON PREMIER SWAN'S CABINET SHAKE-UP

Swan Comments

Hamilton THE ROYAL GAZETTE in English 20 Jul 84 pp 1, 5

[Text] Premier the Hon John Swan unveiled his new Cabinet yesterday and swept aside reports of a rift in the Party.

Appearing calm and confident, the Premier spoke exclusively to The Royal Gazette about the importance of his Cabinet remaining in tune with the dynamism of the Country.

Mr Swan declined to elaborate on what prompted him to fire Mr C.V. (Jim) Woolridge from the Cabinet on Tuesday—"what happened between us is a private matter."

But he praised the sacked Tourism Minister for his political contribution and said he hoped that Mr Woolridge would return to Cabinet in the future.

Mr Swan would not rule out further Cabinet shuffles and foreshadowed changes later in the summer to the portfolio groupings of Government functions.

The Premier singled out improvements to the quality of life as the Government's top priority and talked of the need for the Country to develop consensus and intimacy and to put those goals above that of economic growth.

Mr Swan spoke to The Royal Gazette following a swearing-in ceremony of three new Ministers at Government House.

The Hon Irving Pearman replaces Mr Woolridge as Minister of Tourism, and the Hon Maxwell Burgess--at 30 the youngest ever Cabinet member--is brought into the Ministry of Youth, Sport and Recreation.

The Hon Ann Cartwright DeCouto fills the vacant post of Minister of Health and Social Services and becomes the only woman in Cabinet.

Meanwhile, the Hon Sidney Stallard replaces Mr William McPhee as Minister of Transport Services.

The Premier also announced that the Hon Charles Collis, who had been Acting Minister of Health, would retain the position of Minister without Portfolio but would have the new responsibility for Government Organisation.

He explained that Senator Collis would oversee internal Government reorganisation projects, such as the structure of the judiciary and the legislature.

Mr Swan refused to be drawn on whether he had offered Mr Woolridge the opportunity of resigning from the Cabinet, or on his reasons for dropping him from the team.

It was the prerogative of the Premier--provided by the Constitution--to decide who would make up the Cabinet, he said.

"I have always said that nothing was going to be static about the Cabinet; that it would be an evolving process. Bermuda is a dynamic place so it could not have a static Cabinet."

Did Mr Woolridge's apparent breach of Cabinet solidarity contribute to his demise?

"Cabinet solidarity is a charge each Minister undertakes and I am charged with the responsibility of seeing that those charges are fulfilled--the answer speaks for itself," said the Premier.

At the swearing-in ceremony, Mr Swan thanked Mr Woolridge for his many years of service in Cabinet and said he had every confidence that the former Minister would continue to serve the Party and the Country.

Asked if he foresaw a Cabinet revival for Mr Woolridge, he said: "It is my wish that he does serve in Cabinet again in the future and that, if he is called upon, he will make himself available."

Mr Swan categorically rejected backbenchers' criticisms that he was stacking his Cabinet with people who gave him unequivocal support.

Those who pointed the finger, he said, should examine the composition of the Cabinet and decide for themselves if the people there were more relevant to the current climate of the Country.

"I don't think there is a rift. We have always recognised diversions of opinions and perceptions because the Party covers the whole spectrum. I am confident that all members will put Country before self."

The Premier would not dismiss the possibility of further Cabinet changes--"we have to make sure we stay relevant."

Mr Swan said he had charged his new Ministers with the responsibility of directing attention to programmes which would enhance the quality of life for Bermudians.

Expanding on this theme, he said Bermuda was perceived to be an affluent country, with a per capita income of \$19,000 a year, but there were people who could not find homes, children who lacked parental guidance and problems related to drugs.

The Government study on the public's perception of the quality of life was almost completed and this would play a major part in identifying the areas to be addressed and the problems to be recessed.

"Instead of preoccupying ourselves with growth, growth and more growth--growth in the tourism industry and growth in international business--we are trying to get to the point where we can see that Bermudian interests are best served and then we can serve the rest of the world," Mr Swan said.

#### McPhee Resignation

Hamilton THE ROYAL GAZETTE in English 19 Jul 84 p 1

[Excerpts] The resignation yesterday of Transport Services Minister the Hon William MCPhee leaves three Cabinet vacancies to be filled.

Mr MCPhee, who has been ill for several months, offered his resignation to Premier the Hon John Swan yesterday.

His letter (see text on Page 3) said that he believed it was morally correct and in the best interests of good government and the people of Bermuda for him to be replaced in the Cabinet.

The Premier accepted the resignation with the greatest regret, saying that Mr MCPhee's action was typical of his public spiritedness.

As Mr Swan put the final touches to his Cabinet reshuffle yesterday, a number of his backbenchers were in uproar over the sacking of Mr Woolridge.

The Premier was accused of stacking the Cabinet to his own political advantage and to the exclusion of caucus members whose views were not always parallel to his own.

There were warnings of polarisation and confrontation within the United Bermuda Party--even of guerilla warfare being waged between the Cabinet and the backbenches.

## Shock Among Backbenchers

Hamilton THE ROYAL GAZETTE in English 19 Jul 84 pp 1, 12

[Text]

Shockwaves rippled through the Government backbench yesterday as news of the Cabinet sacking of Mr. C. V. (Jim) Woolridge began to sink in, leaving MPs surprised and disgruntled.

Eight UBP backbenchers overtly or directly criticised Premier the Hon. John Swan for outrightly firing the Tourism Minister from Cabinet on Tuesday.

The Hon. Ralph Marshall — the first person to be sacked from the Swan team last year — accused the Premier of stacking his Cabinet with politicians who supported him without question.

Two more former Ministers, Mr. Harry Viera and Mr. Bill Cox, warned of the consequences of the Premier's axing of Mr. Woolridge.

Mr. Viera said it appeared that the balance of Cabinet had changed dramatically and that could lead to polarisation and confrontation with a powerful Government backbench.

Mr. Cox said that the removal of Mr. Woolridge would leave both the Cabinet weaker and the Party weaker.

Meanwhile, Mr. David Wilkinson dismissed theories that the Tourism Minister had been fired because he broke the Party whip by failing to support the Government on the East Broadway development issue.

He believed that Mr. Woolridge's political demise was instead due to the fundamental philosophical differences between the Premier and the Minister.

One UBP supporter predicted that the sacking would result in guerrilla warfare being waged within the UBP Parliamentary group as frustrated backbenchers failed to get their message across.

Mr. Swan has never made a secret of the fact that he expects total loyalty from his Cabinet members and that any public criticism by them of his administration will land them on the outs.

Those close to the Premier are quick to dismiss the rumbling of discontent from the backbench as only the backlash of embittered ex-Ministers.

But there can be no doubt that Mr. Swan's new-style leadership — under which most of the power is held, and most of the glory taken, by the Premier — is antagonising a sizeable segment of the caucus.

Mr. Sidney Stallard (Member for St. George's South) said yesterday that Mr. Woolridge had served Bermuda extremely well for a number of years and had been a most competent Tourism Minister.

"He will be a tremendous loss to both tourism and the Cabinet," said Mr. Stallard.

Mr. Lancelot Swan (St. George's South) said that Mr. Woolridge was one of the best speakers in Parliament and he had done a good job in tourism. "I was surprised at his dismissal," he said.

Mr. Woolridge's Smith's South running-mate, Mr. Anthony Correia, expressed distress and shock at his colleague's demise.

"I think that he did a fantastic job," he said.

When Mr. Woolridge had been doing well, not too many people had been loud in their appreciation of the Tourism Minister, said Mr. Correia, but when things weren't so rosy, attitudes changed.

"When things go sour, you get kicked when you are already down," he said. "I am very sorry to see it happen."

Mr. Ernest DeCouto (Smith's North) described Mr. Woolridge as a pillar of the Party system.

"He is a very popular person, as a politician, businessman and sportsman, who has made a tremendous contribution.

"No-one serves in Cabinet for as long as he has unless he has a great deal to offer. I would have thought he could still be of great use in some other portfolio," said Mr. DeCouto.

Mr. Wilkinson (Paget West) was also sorry to hear that Mr. Woolridge had not been offered another Cabinet post. "I would have thought that his experience would be useful in any portfolio," he said.

He said he thought that the East Broadway vote issue was a trifling matter and not the root cause for Mr. Woolridge's dismissal.

"I think the reason is the fundamental philosophical differences between the two men," said Mr. Wilkinson.

Mr. Viera (Southampton West) agreed with Mr. Wilkinson. "With our numerical supremacy, missing a vote on a non-serious issue is not cause for dismissal," he said.

Ministers frequently missed votes; the front benches

of Parliament had often been almost empty, said Mr. Viera.

"Collective Cabinet responsibility works two ways so any decisions on such matters as timesharing presumably would have the blessing of the whole Cabinet. One cannot blame all of Bermuda's ills on Jim.

"My main concern is that previous cabinets have usually represented a balance of views from caucus which is vital to the success of the Party.

"It would appear that balance has changed dramatically and that could lead to polarisation and confrontation with a very powerful backbench. There-

in lies the danger," Mr. Viera warned.

Mr. Viera's running-mate, Mr. Marshall, said the East Broadway development vote should have been a free vote.

Mr. Woolridge was a very valuable politician who should have been offered another portfolio by the Premier.

"The Premier is stacking the Cabinet with people who support him without question.

"It is getting to the point where the Premier is choosing the Parliamentarians instead of the Parliamentarians choosing the Premier," said Mr. Marshall.

Mr. Cox (Devonshire

South) said that during the time he had known Mr. Woolridge and during his brief time in Cabinet with him, he had found him to be an independent and sincere person who had made a very great contribution because of his instinct for what was right for Bermuda.

"I don't fault the Premier for thinking there should be a change because I don't believe that one person should serve in the same portfolio for more than five years," said Mr. Cox.

"But I do think it was an error of judgment on the Premier's part to remove Mr. Woolridge from Cabinet altogether. I feel he leaves Cabinet weaker and the Party weaker."

YOUTH WING OF RULING UBP IN FORMATIVE STAGES

Hamilton THE ROYAL GAZETTE in English 20 Jul 84 p 6

[Text] The seeds have been sown for a new youth wing of the United Bermuda Party.

Calling itself Young United Bermuda, the group is open to people aged between 16 and 30.

According to YUB's acting chairman, Mr David R. Evans, there are already 25 members and the sky is the limit as far as further recruitment is concerned.

The new group will succeed the old UBP Under-40 Caucus, a once vigorous and often outspoken youth wing which has not been active for some time.

Mr Evans said that YUB was not styled on the Under-40 Caucus, which, he said, had probably trod on too many toes, and would adopt a responsible approach to matters of importance to the Country and young Bermudians.

"We feel that it is vital that young people take an active interest in the political and social affairs of Bermuda," said YUB Press release.

"By fostering a better understanding of the strengths and problems of Bermuda today we hope to contribute to the existence of a responsible, well-informed and civic-minded young electorate which will work in the best interests of Bermuda."

The group believed that the UBP represented the key to Bermuda's future well-being and would be formally establishing itself as an adjunct to the ruling Party.

CSO: 3298/1056



RIFT IN PLP GAINS MOMENTUM; TACTICAL ERROR CRITICIZED

PLP Miscalculation on Crime

Hamilton THE ROYAL GAZETTE in English 18 Jul 84 p 4

[Editorial]

[Text]

In the Letters to the Editor column today, Mrs. Kathleen M. Bell, a member of the Progressive Labour Party and its candidate in Pembroke West Central at the last General Election, says: "... we should not imply to anyone, at any time, that anarchy is acceptable. We should not give even the slightest impression that it is all right to beat up policeman and take the law into our own hands whenever we feel like it." We could not possibly agree more with Mrs. Bell's statement which expresses our sentiments better than we could hope to express them.

And we think that is precisely what the PLP forgot when it issued a statement on Friday rapping two of its stalwart members, Mr. Calvin Smith and Mr. Austin Thomas, who had spoken out against violence. The PLP gave the impression, we repeat, gave the impression, that violence was all right if you felt disadvantaged and if you could blame that disadvantage on the UBP Government. Perhaps, in its haste to put down the UBP Government and to blame the Government for all of Bermuda's ills, it overlooked the damage its statement could do to the Country.

The final paragraph of the PLP's statement seems to bear out a PLP willingness to condemn its own members and deprive them of their democratic right to free speech,

while not condemning acts of violence as long as it suits Party policy. That paragraph, by Shadow Home Affairs Minister Mr. L. Frederick Wade, who would have considerable power over the Police if the PLP was in power, said:

"Finally, I say to Calvin Smith, Austin Thomas and others quick to just condemn, that they must be more concerned with doing things which will correct the ills of this society by addressing the causes of these ills in an in-depth and meaningful way."

We think that the PLP grossly misjudged the mood of the Country in the wake of violent attacks and, especially, in the wake of Det. Sgt. Patrick Hamlett's beating by a cowardly mob in his own home.

The people were shocked. Violence is not the Bermudian way, and it is an aspect of other countries which Bermudians abhor.

There was a sense of outrage on Monday morning when Bermudians, of all stripes, perceived of the PLP as supporting violence and, what is more, violence on a member of the Police Force, as long as the Party could blame it on the UBP and the "state of the Country" — by implication the society created by the UBP.

On Monday, after shock and criticism rained down, the PLP attempted to catch up by issuing a second statement highly critical of *The Royal Gazette* and attempting, as other politicians also do, to blame its ineptitude on this newspaper. In the second statement it urged: "We should all be working together to find lasting and in-depth solutions, which means cleaning up the social environment which breeds crime."

The public has often perceived of the PLP as soft on crime and has attributed that to the fact that the PLP leadership contains lawyers who are frequently called upon to defend in court the very criminals the public wants the PLP, as a political party, to condemn.

What the PLP failed to understand was that the public was delighted when first the PLP's Mr. Stanley Morton and then Mr. Austin Thomas and Mr. Calvin Smith condemned crime and violence. The

public thought that, finally, the PLP was beginning the very "working together" which it now advocates to assist the Country to remove social ills and the crime to which they lead . . . a task which is made difficult as long as anyone gives, as Mrs. Bell says, "even the slightest impression that it is all right to beat up policemen and take the law into our own hands whenever we feel like it." But that was not to be.

The PLP lost the best chance it ever had to prove its true concern and to demonstrate that it is not a soft party bent on votes at any price. It even demonstrated that it is not a democratic party. If you speak, even for the good of the Country, you will be damned.

Right thinking people will be horrified. They will also reaffirm their support for the Police Force and for law and order which protect us ALL. They will also continue the fight against the outrage of violent crime, the cancer which could destroy us ALL.

#### Criticism of Browne Evans

Hamilton THE ROYAL GAZETTE in English 24 Jul 84 pp 1, 3

[Text]

Moves to oust Mrs. Lois Browne Evans as Leader of the Opposition gathered momentum yesterday.

The rift within the Progressive Labour Party deepened as Opposition MPs spoke out for the first time about the Party's failure to respond to change and face up to the leadership issue.

Three PLP Parliamentarians called for a leadership review while several more declined to give open support to Mrs. Browne Evans.

The most outspoken of the Opposition Leader's critics was Mr. Gilbert Darrell who said that the division in the Party was widening.

Mr. Darrell, the Opposition Whip, said that the Opposition was less effective now than it had ever been, and its style of leadership was discouraging people who were trying to make a contribution.

He said that Mrs. Browne Evans had attempted to surround herself with people who supported her unequivocally, forming a group which ignored mounting dissatisfaction with the Party's leadership.

He was joined in his concerns by fellow Parliamentarians, Mr. Austin Thomas and Mr. Lionel Simmons, both of whom said the Party was not progressing as well as it should be.

The public criticism of Mrs. Browne Evans is particularly significant because the Opposition is renowned for keeping inter-Party differences behind closed doors.

Unlike the United Bermuda Party, the PLP has rarely aired its dirty washing in public.

One Party member said yesterday that his colleagues had been driven by frustration to speak out for change because their internal efforts to have the leadership issue discussed had proved futile.

Expressions of dissatisfaction with the Opposition leadership are nothing new at the grassroots level.

The PLP's own newspaper, *Party Line*, has carried a number of articles which have been critical of the current leaders.

But attacks from within the Parliamentary group itself have been rare.

The Opposition in-fighting has been exacerbated by two recent events — the first being the issuing of a public rebuke from Shadow Home Affairs Minister Mr. Frederick Wade to two Party members who had condemned the brutal attack on a Police officer.

The second was Mrs. Browne Evans' comment in an article published in *The Royal Gazette* last week that Mr. Darrell was still bitter about his defeat in last year's election for a Party Leader.

Mr. Darrell said yesterday that he was not bitter, and had, in fact, suffered several defeats in Party elections over the years.

"It is time for a change of leadership; I have been saying that since 1972," he said.

Mrs. Browne Evans had been instrumental in getting people into the Party who supported her without question, to give herself a power-base.

"It has become very popular within the Party to be saying there is a need for a new leader, but Mrs. Browne Evans and her supporters seem to ignore it," he said.

"The Opposition is less effective now than it has ever been; there is an apathy which has set in because there has been a good deal of

discouragement for people trying to make a contribution."

He said the Party had to get Mrs. Browne Evans to a position where she was prepared to stand down so that the division over the leadership issue could be resolved and the Opposition could be pulled together again.

"The division is there — there are those who don't want to see the leadership change and those of us who do.

"It is really a question of lack of performance and lack of leadership," said Mr. Darrell.

Mr. Simmons said that review of the leadership should be an ongoing process within any political party.

"I would share the views that the Party is not progressing as well as it might be and that we must look at the leadership to see if any changes should be made," he said.

Mr. Simmons said he agreed with Mr. Darrell that there was a reluctance upon the part of the leadership to address the issue of whether change was necessary or wanted.

He said that Party members who had spoken out against the attack on the Police officer had his full support.

Mr. Thomas, one of the longest serving PLP Parliamentarians, was one of those whose knuckles were rapped for his comments on the Police assault.

He reaffirmed his support for his Party yesterday, and said that the ideals and ob-

jectives of the PLP remained in line with his aspirations for Bermuda.

Mr. Thomas recalled that when he had joined the Party in 1968 there were differences of opinion, but the membership had found strength in open and free discussion with a view to finding acceptable and rational solutions.

"In recent years, it seems that certain persons in the upper echelons of the Party wish to ignore the benefits of this type of interaction, particularly if they suspect that you differ with their point of view in sensitive areas."

The Party's ideals and objectives had not changed, but the attitudes of some personalities had changed towards those who expressed views other than those which they endorsed.

"These persons are causing long-standing workers and supporters of the Party to withdraw their services, and progressive, intelligent and concerned young people are not attracted to the Party because of the negative mentality of others," said Mr. Thomas.

The observations were accurate of Party members who had recently stressed the need for continued freedom of expression within the Party and the need for the PLP to move with the times.

"They know what they are talking about and like thousands of other members and supporters, want to see the Party do the job that those who cast 43 percent of the votes in the last election expect of us," he said.

PLP VOICES CONCERN OVER ATTEMPTS TO MUZZLE AUDITOR

Hamilton THE ROYAL GAZETTE in English 18 Jul 84 p 1

[Text] The Opposition last night expressed grave concern that attempts were being made to hamstring the Government auditor in the performance of his duties.

The PLP was deeply disturbed that the Attorney General had tried to inhibit the auditor in his efforts to ensure that he could properly carry out his Constitutional duties, said a joint statement from Opposition Leader Mrs Lois Browne Evans and Shadow Finance Minister Mr Eugene Cox.

The statement also pointed to a "clear conflict of interest" arising from one person--Mr Austin Ward QC--holding the positions of both Acting Attorney General and Acting Deputy Governor.

The Opposition's statement was prompted by reports in The Royal Gazette that the Attorney General, Mr Saul Froomkin QC, has warned auditor Larry Dennis against making a special report to Parliament about threats to the independence of his office.

Mr Dennis has been told that such action could be construed as "misbehaviour" under the Bermuda Constitution--one of only two grounds on which the auditor could be dismissed from office.

Mrs Browne Evans and Mr Cox said that the PLP continued to be gravely concerned by ongoing reports that Mr Dennis was being impeded in his task of monitoring Government's management of public funds.

"Hence we are deeply disturbed that there have been attempts made by the Attorney General to inhibit actions being taken by the auditor to ensure that he can properly carry out his constitutional functions," the statement said.

"The Constitution clearly states that the auditor is responsible only to the Governor as the Queen's representative."

The clear conflict of interest caused by the same person holding the positions of Acting Attorney General and Acting Deputy Governor gave rise to further concern, he said, as did reports that the Attorney General was approached by the Cabinet Secretary to give a ruling in the matter.

"It is an open secret that the Cabinet has long been unhappy with Mr Dennis' forthright and incisive comments on serious shortcomings in Government's management of public monies, and one is left to conclude that this is only the latest attempt to inhibit the auditor's fulfilment of his duties," the statement continued.

The Opposition had pointed out during last month's no confidence debate that salary and staffing problems were hamstringing the auditor.

"If such a high-ranking official can be intimidated in this way, then the claim by Premier Swan to be conducting an open Government is made hollow, indeed," said the statement.

CSO: 3298/1057



## LABOR ROW AT BBC HAS BROAD RAMIFICATIONS

### Criticism of Government Bias

Hamilton THE WORKERS VOICE in English 22 Jun 84 p 2

[Editorial]

[Text] There is a growing sense of frustration and anger amongst the workers in Bermuda. And that anger is directed, in part, against the Bermuda Government, as well as against the actions of incompetent and intransigent management in the private sector.

It is becoming increasingly evident that this Government, while claiming to represent the interests of all citizens of this Island, continues to display a singular lack of interest in the concerns of the workers--apart from drawing up regressive and anti-labour legislation.

Yet, at the same time, Government turns a blind eye on the actions of management, in some cases, finding excuses and justification for the actions of management.

The most glaring recent example of this Government's inability or reluctance to condemn any management is the case of the dispute between the unionised workers and management of the Bermuda Broadcasting Company.

It is a fact that when the BBC applied to Government for license to purchase the ailing Capitol Broadcasting Company, Government admitted that it had certain reservations about the proposed merger. Nevertheless, it went ahead and granted permission.

One must presume that the minister concerned must have been aware that the resulting monopoly of an important section of the media would put the general public at the mercy of that company.

If, in fact, Government allowed the merger without any written guarantees that would assure the continuing operation of the company, then it displayed once again its lack of responsibility towards the taxpayer whose money pays Government members' fat salaries.

Members of the Bermuda Industrial Union which represents the unionised workers of the BBC are tired of statements being made by members of Government which always seek to make the BIU the villain of the piece.

We would point out that it was NOT the workers who called for the merger of the two companies. It was MANAGEMENT.

It was NOT the workers who were losing money or adding to the cost of the combined operation. It was MANAGEMENT--inept and bungling management.

Before ever they obtained Union recognition, and since, workers at the BBC have, in most cases, received little or no increase in pay (and we are talking of a period lasting almost two years).

The workers have been negotiating now for six months in an effort to arrive at an equitable collective agreement with management of the BBC.

Any businessman will tell you that it is the decision-makers or management of any company who are responsible for the success or failure of any business.

When, as in the case of the BBC, you have a combination of bad management and bad industrial relations, the outcome is a foregone conclusion.

Therefore, let us put the blame for the blackout of television and the silence of radio where it belongs--on the shoulders of the incompetent and irresponsible management, which has brought the BBC to its present state. And on the shoulders of an irresponsible Government which has allowed this situation to deteriorate, and attitudes to harden on both sides.

#### Firings, Station Closings

Hamilton THE ROYAL GAZETTE in English 18 Jul 84 pp 1, 2

[Editorial]

[Excerpts]

The Bermuda Broadcasting Company (BBC) yesterday axed its entire television staff and announced the permanent closure of both TV channels and one radio station.

BBC president Mr. Martin Smith emerged from a six-hour meeting with Bermuda Industrial Union representatives last night to announce that 22 employees -- all unionised -- were being made redundant and another six will be leaving the company in the coming weeks.

He said that neither television channel would re-open in the foreseeable future although some attempt would be made to provide some Olympic Games coverage as a public service. This would be done on an automated system and would not save any TV jobs.

BIU chief Mr. Ottiwell Simmons said last night that the union would continue to fight for jobs and threatened that legal action might follow the BBC's announcement.

"We have warned the company that their list (of redundancies) shows very

vivid signs of discrimination and victimisation and as such could require a legal opinion as to whether it was a legal selection."

He re-iterated the union's frequently expressed view that both TV channels could be re-opened without any redundancies if cuts were made at management level.

Mr. Smith said yesterday: "The BBC directors have decided to close the television operation in its present form because we have lost \$416,000 so far this year and the operation lost \$460,000 last year. We cannot allow this situation to continue."

## Search for Alternatives

Hamilton THE ROYAL GAZETTE in English 20 Jul 84 p 1

[Text]

The Government is launching an all-out search for a way to bring television back to Bermuda.

The Hon. John Stubbs, Minister of Industry and Technology, said his department will conduct a three-week investigation into "every aspect of television as it relates to the Island," with a view to bringing some form of regular television programming back on the air.

The investigation will be launched today when Industry and Technology officials meet with directors and senior managers of the Bermuda Broadcasting Co. Ltd.

Other meetings are scheduled with the Bermuda Association of Professional Marketers and Advertisers (BAPMA), Cable and Wireless Ltd., "and anyone else who might have an interest in the situation," said Dr. Stubbs.

"The Island has gotten into the habit of access to television over the years," said Dr. Stubbs. "The entire Island also has an enormous investment in television sets."

The goal of the investigation, said Dr. Stubbs, is to find a way to resume some sort of regular programming paid for by advertising funds.

## Government Firmness

Hamilton THE ROYAL GAZETTE in English 21 Jul 84 pp 1, 3

[Text]

Technology Minister the Hon. John Stubbs last night dismissed hopes that the Island's two commercial TV channels would come back on the air as "totally wishful thinking."

Dr. Stubbs met yesterday afternoon with Bermuda Broadcasting Company (BBC) president Mr. Martin Smith and general manager Mr. Michael Tindall — the first step in Government's all-out search to bring back television "in its various forms" to the Island.

But although the Minister described the talks as "cordial and frank", he was not optimistic about the chances of BBC switching its two TV stations back on.

"I'm sure that everybody feels we had two television channels with variable quality, why can't we just have them turn on the keys and get back in business," he said.

"While we didn't go into the details of finance yesterday, that clearly is, both financially and commercially, totally wishful thinking."

"The financial format of their previous operation was disastrous, and we can't regulate or legislate private companies to pursue disastrous courses," he said.

Mr. Smith said last night that he felt it was Dr. Stubbs' duty, as Minister of Technology, to "see what he can do to find out what can be done to restore television here".

The BBC president added he had agreed to provide the Minister with records of operational costs for the company.

"We gave him some views and he has asked us to provide some figures for him, which he hopes will be beneficial to the studies he is making."

Meanwhile, Dr. Stubbs said he hoped to meet next week with local advertisers, as well as representatives of De-Fontes Television and Cable and Wireless, to discuss the "potential future of broadcast TV".

The Minister added Government was keeping an open mind on the various ways in which television might be reintroduced into the Island.

The most economical way would be to receive signals off a satellite and distribute them either by broadcasting, or by using microwave distribution, as in the case of cable television, he said.

But he warned there might be problems with this course, as Bermuda seemed to fall into a copyright no-man's land.

"You can only use satellite signals, in a commercially acceptable way, if there is the appropriate copyright clearance for the group from whom the signal originates," Dr. Stubbs explained.

In many cases, copyrights restricted signal distribution to North America, or the United States.

"We're not part of the US jurisdiction, and that sort of commercial copyright clearance is where Bermuda runs into difficulties."

Both sides in the 44-day-old broadcast strike took a break from the bargaining table yesterday.

Bermuda Industrial Union president Mr. Ottiwell Simmons met in the morning with unionised staff to bring them up to date on the "latest developments".

BBC officials had earlier turned over certain information, concerning unionised staff members, to the Union for consideration.

"The information was to do with calculations concerning redundancies," Mr. Simmons said.

Mr. Smith said another meeting between company and union officials was planned for Monday afternoon, at 2.30 p.m.

In the meantime, Mr. Smith said, he planned to spend his weekend catching up with a mountain of backlogged work at his office.

## BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS

### BRIEFS

**COMMUNICATIONS TALKS**--A team of Consultants from the Commonwealth Secretariat arrived in the Territory on July 8, 1984 at Government's request to assist in reformulating Government's Telephone and Telecommunications policy, and to participate in initial rounds of negotiations with Cable and Wireless regarding their Telephone and Telecommunications Agreements with Government. The renegotiation of the Agreements was a major recommendation made in a report on "Aspects of the Operations of Telecommunication Services in the British Virgin Islands," which was accepted by Government last month. The team which is expected to conclude initial negotiations by July 20, 1984 consists of Miss R. Hamisi, an Economist/Finance Accountant, Messrs Menary and Rahim, both Lawyers, and Mr Perez, a Telecommunications Expert. [Text] [Road Town THE ISLAND SUN in English 21 Jul 84 p 1]

**BUSINESS ORDINANCE**--A ceremony for the assenting to the International Business Companies Ordinance 1984 took place at the Governor's Conference Room on Friday 13th July at 12 noon. The Bill which is intended to encourage the further expansion of the BVI's financial sector, was referred to by the Hon Chief Minister in his address before the Legislative Council as perhaps "the most important piece of Legislation to come before the house in the present decade." The Bill seeks to ensure company registration and annual license fees, not only to continue to contribute significantly to the economy but expand while not, in itself, adversely impacting the continuance of other revenue sources on which successive governments have relied. The ceremony was attended by members of the Legislative Council, representatives of the financial community as well as senior government officials. [Text] [Road Town THE ISLAND SUN in English 21 Jul 84 p 1]

CSO: 3298/1059



## CHILE

### CORVALAN IN PRAVDA ON CP CONFERENCE, ANTI-PINOCHET MOVEMENT

Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 25 Jun 84 p 4

[Article by Luis Corvalan, general secretary of the Communist Party of Chile: "An Important Event in Chilean Life"]

[Text] A national conference of our party took place in the remote underground of Chile. It was the first time that such a conference was carried out under the conditions of the country's fascist regime.

We are talking about a political event of tremendous importance, which will go into the history of our party and the struggle of the Chilean people against the fascist dictatorship. The conference participants noted that the primary task of the moment is to put into practice the slogan's "down with Pinochet!" and "democracy now!" Millions of our compatriots who participated in the days of national protest as well as the many thousands of meetings and other mass militant actions demonstrated the firm resolve of the people to throw off the yoke of tyranny. The working class is playing a more and more noticeable role in mobilizing and uniting all those who are speaking out in favor of democracy of social forces.

The persistent striving of Pinochet to stay in power is inevitably evoking a storm of protests in the country. The dictator is threatening the country with a repetition of "the events of 11 September," that is, with a new blood bath to save the existing "graveyard order." At the same time, on the advice and under the pressure of U.S. imperialism, the tyranny is creating the appearance of a certain liberalization of the regime and it is promising to legalize bourgeois parties in the future and to carry out the election of an illusory parliament—all of this in the framework of full recognition of the existing "constitution." The goal of such a way out is merely to embellish and strengthen the fascist regime.

The country is seething. After days of protest, mass meetings and demonstrations, there are worker and student strikes, seizure of land parcels, acts of sabotage and other manifestations of discontent and public insubordination. There are political discussions in the streets, at work places, behind round tables in the course of radio and television broadcasts, at meetings of representatives of public organizations and between various groups of the bourgeoisie.



The national conference of the Chilean Communist Party examined various aspects of the current situation in the country. The conclusion was drawn that the economic, political, social and moral crisis that Chile is experiencing cannot be solved merely by legalizing some political parties, by an illusory parliament or by replacing a few ministers. It can be solved only as the result of the overthrow of the military-fascist dictatorship, the coming to power of new social and political forces and profound transformation of economic and state structures.

Without boasting, with a clear understanding of what our party represents, we again declare the futility of the intentions of those who, as in the case of the present rulers of the country, are trying to exclude us from public and political life. As one of the leaders of the Democratic Alliance said, our party, just as the mountain ranges of the Andes, is a part of Chilean reality. In the same way, the names Luis Emilio Recabarrena, Elias Laferte and Pablo Neruda are an integral part of our history. The life and struggle of thousands and thousands of Chilean communists are known to millions of our compatriots, who know very well who we are, where we came from and where we are going, and therefore any slanderous fabrications of anticommunists burst like soap bubbles.

Chile's problem is fascism and tyranny in the service of international finance capital and local clans, who annihilated the democratic regime and destroyed the national economy. Under the pressure of the circumstances, the ruling clique sometimes makes statements about democracy and even about "full democracy," but all of that is just phrases and empty words. Its true business is profoundly antidemocratic. The expensive, monstrous and repressive apparatus continues to commit numerous misdeeds. As was said in a report at the party conference, the main obstacle is Pinochet and he must be removed so that the country can return to democracy and come out of its position of prostration into which it was plunged by the fascist dictatorship. The regime must be overthrown for political and moral reform. This is a task of today, not tomorrow, and it is urgent. This task is not simple but it is feasible.

Our party's national conference also concluded that the working class and the people are in a position to overthrow the tyranny if they apply all of their efforts and will utilize the most varied means in the struggle, if they are able to attract new groups of the population in the days of protest and in the general national strike, and if they will show both firmness and flexibility in carrying on the daily struggle and in convincing military personnel of the necessity to heed the voice of the majority of the population. Military personnel must be convinced that the worst thing that they can do is to continue to stand guard over a regime that is foreign to the people and doomed to failure.

The most important task of the moment is therefore to develop popular resistance, to activate all forces and all present reserves and to utilize all available means. Such a struggle will attract the indecisive and irresolute, will wreck the plans of adherents of conciliation, will open up a new breach in the camp of the dictatorship and will lead the way to victory.

The conference again affirmed out line on international disobedience to the regime and on the necessity of striving for trade-union solidarity of workers and mutual understanding between the National Democratic Movement, the Democratic Alliance and other opposition forces. The conference participants spoke out in favor of unlimited support for the National Democratic Movement and also in favor of joint efforts and agreement with all parties that took part in the historical social transformations carried out by the government of Salvador Allende. The unity of the forces of the Left is one of the main conditions for attaining mutual understanding in the framework of the entire opposition and the most rapid victory over fascism and the most democratic way out of the current crisis with a socialist perspective.

As is noted in the conference report, an in-depth analysis was given there of the international situation and the decision was made to increase solidarity with Nicaragua, the Salvadoran people, socialist Cuba and the peoples of Uruguay, Brazil, Bolivia, the Dominican Republic, Argentina and other Latin American countries struggling against U.S. imperialism and for democracy and social progress. Chilean communists again announced their support of all peoples struggling against imperialist intervention, fascism, apartheid and Zionism, and they noted the outstanding historical role of the USSR and other countries of the socialist community in the struggle for peace and progress throughout the world.

The conference showed once again that our party is an invincible and closely united force. There is no room in it for different currents. The ideological unity based on the principles of Marxism-Leninism and the cohesion of Chilean communists around the Central Committee and its political line are inalienable features of the Communist Party of Chile.

In the struggle against fascism, the party paid in blood for its loyalty to the ideals of freedom. Thousands of communists were killed, including 16 members of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Chile and 9 members of the Central Committee of the heroic Union of Young Communists. But we will faithfully remain in the front ranks of the combatants and we are full of determination to undergo the most difficult trials in the name of the triumph of democracy.

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CSO: 1807/276

## DOMINICA

### BRIEFS

NEW TAIWANESE AMBASSADOR--Roseau, Dominica, 9 August, CANA--Taiwan is to open an embassy here later this month, but its ambassador to Roseau will be residing in the Dominican Republic, the Foreign Affairs Department said today. The department said that Thomas Cheng, counsellor and charge d'affairs of the embassy has already arrived on the island to set up the embassy. The department said that Ambassador Meng-Hsien Wang will visit the island later this year to present his credentials to President Clarence Seignoret. [Text] [FL092236  
Bridgetown CANA in English 1941 GMT 9 Aug 84]

CSO: 3298/1060

BURNHAM, BOUTERSE DISCUSS REVIVAL OF JOINT COMMISSION

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 19 Jul 84 p 1

[Text] The possible resuscitation of the Guyana-Suriname Joint Commission was among matters discussed yesterday when President Forbes Burnham met with Surinamese leader Lt Colonel Desi Bouterse.

The two leaders spoke for about 90 minutes at the Timehri International Airport. Bouterse arrived here around 08:00 hrs en route to Nicaragua to participate in celebrations to mark the Fifth Anniversary of the victory of the Sandinista Revolution.

Cde Burnham told the GNA afterwards that the talks were "friendly, useful and promising." He said he and Bouterse focused on the need for putting in place structures which would make co-operation between Guyana and Suriname easier.

In this regard, the possible resuscitation of the Guyana-Suriname Joint Commission was discussed.

Just before leaving Timehri Bouterse told the GNA that his talks with Cde Burnham had added "another dimension" to Guyana-Suriname relations.

The talks, he said, had centred on ways of ensuring more definite programmes of co-operation. "We discussed ways in which progress could be made. We don't only want to stick at talking," he added.

Meanwhile, President Burnham said he had accepted an invitation from Bouterse to visit the neighbouring Republic. The visit, he said, would take place at a mutually convenient time.

Also at Timehri to welcome the Surinamese leader and his delegation were Foreign Affairs Minister Rashleigh Jackson, Finance and Economic Planning Minister Carl Greenidge, newly-accredited Surinamese Ambassador to Guyana John Kolader and Guyana's Ambassador in Paramaribo, Christopher Jones.

Bouterse was accompanied by Captain E. Bourenveen, joint leader of the February 25 Movement and Lieutenant A. Corre, a member of the Military Council. (KP) -- GNA

CSO: 3298/1061

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY ACTIONS: RICE, LOAN BILLS PASS

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 20 Jul 84 pp 1, 4

[Article by Bert Wilkinson]

[Text] The National Assembly yesterday approved the Rice Farmers (Security of Tenure) Amendment Bill 1984 and the General Local Loan (Amendment) Bill.

At yesterday's sitting, also, four Government Ministers presented annual reports from their Ministries. They were reports for 1979 to 1983 of the Guyana Police Force by Home Affairs Minister Jeffrey Thomas; the 1983 report of the Guyana National Co-operative Bank, laid by Finance and Economic Planning Minister Carl Greenidge, those of the Foreign Affairs Ministry by Minister Rashleigh Jackson and that of the Manpower and Co-operatives Ministry by Minister Kenneth Denny.

During debate on the Rice Farmers (Security of Tenure) Amendment Bill, laid by Minister in the Agriculture Ministry Cde Sallahuddin, he said that the amendment was necessary in order to reduce the workload of Rice Action Committee Chairmen, all magistrates, by giving Government the power to appoint persons other than magistrates to do the job.

The Minister explained that the move is also intended to speed up the work of the very important RACs to a stage where only current matters have to be looked at.

Minority Party Frontbencher Reepu Daman Persaud, said that while his party was not opposing the Bill, the amendment should have been enacted a long time ago. He was happy with laymen being appointed to represent farmers.

But United Force Leader Marcellus Feilden-Singh disagreed with Cde Persaud. Such a move, he said, would cut across the country's entire legal framework.

On the General Local Loan (Amendment) Bill, Finance Minister Carl Greenidge who piloted it through the Assembly said this piece of legislation involves no unilateral rescheduling of debentures.

This will be done only after holders initiate the rescheduling of their financial securities, the Minister told the Assembly. His statement followed

contributions from Cde Reepu Daman Persaud and Mr Feilden-Singh. Cde Persaud called the Bill a money-hunting one designed to allow government not to pay money due.

The amendment seeks to empower the Minister, acting through the Central Bank, to reschedule payments of the amount due under fixed-date debentures, or equated annuity debentures and to convert Treasury bills into fixed-date debentures or equated annuity debentures and to convert Treasury bills into fixed-date debentures. The power approved in the new sections inserted in the General Loan Act can be exercised only on the application of the holder of the fixed-date debenture, equated annuity debenture or Treasury bill as the case may be. Provision is also made enabling the issue of fixed-date debentures in lieu of interest falling due on such a debenture if the holder applies for same.

"Under the new Section 26 inserted in the Act, compound interest will be payable upon the principal moneys represented by the fixed-date debentures issued under the new sections--23, 24 and 25 at a rate to be fixed by the Minister from time to time. The rate of interest, it is proposed, should not be lower than the bank rate and shall be payable along with the principal on the redemption.

CSO: 3298/1061



SMUGGLERS USING NEW ROUTE TO AVOID POLICE PATROLS

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 21 Jul 84 p 8

[Article by Lindsay Davidson]

[Text] Smugglers operating across the Guyana-Venezuela border have employed new strategies in an attempt to beat the law.

They have changed their route of entry into Guyana to avoid the Police in the Pomeroon River district.

Increased Police patrols in the river have become a source of bother to smugglers resulting in many of them, instead of entering the country via the Pomeroon River, now travel along the North Essequibo Coast and deposit their goods at different points along the coastline.

While this new arrangement reduces the chances of smugglers encountering Police patrols it is also satisfactory to those traders who purchase the wide range of restricted or prohibited goods from the smugglers.

According to the Customs Department, a surveillance craft fast enough to cover the Georgetown-North West Coast in four hours would go a long way in stamping out smuggling activities in that area.

A senior official feels that if the department acquires such a vessel it would be able to control the situation.

Upsurge

Over the past 18 months smuggling across the Guyana-Venezuela border has been on the upsurge. Charity Police, in the initial stages, found it difficult to curb this practice since smugglers use more powerful boats than the Police have acquired.

It is understood that smugglers own boats powered by two or more engines ranging from 48 to 75 horse power. This gives a distinct advantage to the illegal operators.

However, an increase in properly co-ordinated Police patrols despite the disadvantage of smaller engines have served to make it more difficult for smugglers to operate.

#### Smuggling

There is now the need to put in place more effective systems to stamp out the smuggling and illegal trading in prohibited goods on the Essequibo Coast, a Customs official said.

Large supplies of these goods could be had quite easily at different places along the Coast and in the Pomeroon River at very high prices. (GNA)

CSO: 3298/1061

DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM TO WORK WITH PEOPLE'S CO-OP UNITS

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 18 Jul 84 p 1

[Text] The new distribution system that the Trade and Consumer Protection Ministry plans implementing will be programmed to work closely with the People's Co-operative Units now being put in place in various parts of the country.

This system, in which consumers would either obtain basic items from their units or workplaces rather than at both as is the case now, has already been established in certain East Bank Demerara areas and along the Soesdyke-Linden Highway, Minister Malcolm Corrica said Monday.

But the new policy has run into problems owing to the "non-submission of information from ministries, corporations and regional administrations," Cde Corrica said.

The information—the names, addresses and identification numbers of all employees at workplaces and families in various regions, according to Cde Corrica will allow the Ministry to prevent duplication as practised in the "in-house" and Regional Distribution System being used at the moment.

Meanwhile, the Health Ministry has promised to investigate the reasons for the difficulties mothers are encountering in obtaining powdered milk. Chief Medical Officer Dr Walter Chin said yesterday that a number of mothers have complained to the Ministry that there have been delays in issuing milk chits by some clinics.

Dr Chin was responding to statements by the Trade Ministry that a number of clinics have large amounts of stocks on their premises and are not distributing to mothers.

CSO: 3298/1061

MINISTRY WILL STOP WORK OF SOME MINES, DREDGES

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 23 Jul 84 p 1

[Article by Bert Wilkinson]

[Text] Worried by a continued low declaration of gold from some mining areas, the Energy and Mines Ministry will next week begin issuing "cease-work" orders to a number of dredge-owners, a senior official said yesterday.

And miners working claims in those areas will also be affected by the move. Revocation orders will be issued on them, the official said.

"We plan to save some of them from becoming broke. If they are working claims, providing rations, paying wages and salaries and are finding little or no gold, we will save them from becoming bankrupt by removing them from the industry," the spokesman pointed out.

The move by the Ministry comes at a time when government has introduced tough new legislation against irregularities in the industry and when the miners are organising themselves under the leadership of the Guyana Gold and Diamond Miners Association.

This particular exercise, however, has to do with a specific number of miners whose performances have been closely monitored over a long period by the Ministry, and whose declarations remain so low as to make their mining unprofitable.

Such low declarations are recorded despite allocations for fuel and ration by the National Energy Authority and the Gold Board. Both of these crucial inputs are supplied to miners at controlled prices, and issuance is tied to their declarations.

At least a dozen miners operating in the Marshal Falls-Itaki districts in the mineral-rich Mazaruni district will be affected.

The Ministry, in late June announced increases in sales to the Gold Board for April and May. Sales jumped from between 300 to 600 ounces per month to 1 000 ounces each for the two months.

But production during the current rainy season is expected to drop significantly.

## BRIEFS

AMAZONIAN COOPERATION COMMITTEE--Guyana's Permanent National Commission on Amazonian Co-operation is to look into specific areas of co-operation with other Amazonian states. At a meeting yesterday, the Commission discussed the setting up of subcommittees to investigate related projects. The Commission, headed by Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, was appointed in November last year to work out and help implement national programmes likely to benefit from the Treaty of Amazonian Co-operation. Guyana and seven other countries are signatories to the treaty which came into force in 1980. Other Amazonian states are Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Suriname and Venezuela. The Amazonian Treaty makes provision for co-operation in areas such as regional development, science and technology, health and environmental protection, and Transportation and communications. In addition to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Commission comprises representatives of the Office of the President, the PNC Secretariat, the Ministries of Regional Development and Economic Planning and Finance, the University of Guyana, the Defence Secretariat and the State Planning Secretariat. (GNA) [Text] [Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 20 Jul 84 pp 1, 4]

MESSAGE TO COLOMBIA--President Forbes Burnham has praised Colombia's efforts to call world attention to Latin America's economic plight and to alleviate the present crisis. In a national day message to Colombian President Belisario Betancur, Cde Burnham said Guyana's goals were "in affinity" with Colombia's and he expressed the hope that the two countries would explore all possibilities for South-South co-operation. Colombia celebrates its National Day, today. Cde Burnham's message to President Betancur reads: "The Government and people of Guyana join me in sending to Your Excellency, the Government and people of Colombia our warm greetings and congratulations on the occasion of your National Day. "Colombia can be justly proud of its achievements during the past year in both her domestic and foreign policies. The countries in this hemisphere must recognise especially the continuing effort made by Your Excellency to call world attention to the economic plight of their peoples and to alleviate the present crisis. "The Guyanese nation is also committed to the struggle for a new economic and social order and thus finds its own goals in affinity with those of Colombia. It is my hope that our two countries can explore to full advantage the possibilities which exist between us for positive South-South co-operation. "Please accept, Excellency, my very good wishes for your personal welfare and that of the Colombian people." (GNA) [Text] [Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 20 Jul 84 p 1]

**UREA SHIPMENTS**--The Guyana National Trading Corporation (GNTC) has begun distribution of 35 652 bags of urea which arrived in the country over the weekend. GNTC, the agency responsible for importing agricultural inputs for the rice industry, has already despatched vessels with the fertiliser to Anna Regina (Region 2) and Wakenaam (Region 3). Another vessel left Port Georgetown yesterday for Corriverton (Region 6), with 8 000 bags of urea. Trucks and trailers have commenced delivery to Regions 1, 4 and 5. In addition to the urea shipment, GNTC has also received under the Japanese Grant Aid Programme (agreed between the Government of Guyana and Japan), 40,000 litres of chemicals used extensively for pest control programmes. Executive Director of GNTC, Vibert Parvatan, indicated that discussions have been held with the Bank of Guyana for the importation of an additional 40 000 bags of urea. Adequate quantities of another fertiliser, Triple Superphosphate, are reported to be in stock. The corporation announced that the retail price for urea will be \$65.89 per bag countrywide, while the price for Triple Superphosphate remains at \$66.96 per bag. [Text] [Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 20 Jul 84 p 1]

**LOAN FROM JAPAN**--The Guyana Electricity Corporation will next year be able to install two new three-megawatt diesel generators at the Versailles Power Station as a result of a 628 million yen (\$10,6 million) grant from the Japanese Government. The two generators will replace the existing ones which have caused numerous problems to the GEC within the last four years. The grant will also provide for the supply of spares over the next three years, a release stated yesterday. GEC Chairman Joe Holder and Japanese Tetsuya Fukuda signed the contracts for the provision of consultancy services for the project. This will be undertaken by the EPDC International Limited of Japan. While in Guyana Fukuda of EPDC and, another company official Isao Saeki, will finalise with the GEC the text of tender documents for the contract to provide and install equipment by a Japanese contractor. The grant is part of the Japanese Government's aid programme to Guyana. The new generators will be commissioned next year. [Text] [Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 21 Jul 84 p 1]

**CORN HARVEST**--In spite of a grave threat from monkeys, farmers in the Upper Berbice River area were able to reap 450 000 kilograms (one million pounds) of corn for the first crop, community leader Calvin Vandenburg has said. A call for increased production led to an all-out effort by farmers in the area. But since last year, monkeys have posed a threat to farms. Vandenburg, who is also a member of Parliament, said it was difficult to say what the actual yield was, since farmers had sold large quantities of their produce to hucksters who capitalised heavily on the late arrival of the Government Purchasing Agent. Authorities in Region Ten are considering whether to purchase the corn from farmers in an attempt to reduce their marketing losses. Farmers receive low prices for grains with high moisture content and infested by weevils, because of poor storage conditions. Arrangements to produce more corn for the Guymine livestock farms at Kwakwani and Linden are also under investigation. Guymine was reportedly paying \$1,76 per kilogram, eleven cents more than the Guyana Pharmaceutical Corporation's top price. (GNA) [Text] [Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 21 Jul 84 p 1]



NEW POLICE OUTPOST--New Amsterdam, Berbice, (GNA)--A Police Outpost will be opened at Rose Hall Town, Corentyne, today. The outpost was constructed jointly by the Police and the community and Police Divisional Commander Hilton Cummings described it as a true community venture. Cde Cummings said he hopes that the communities will continue to support the Police in their move to reduce the crime rate in the Region. Recently, residents on the East Bank Berbice complained to the Minister of State in the Ministry of Regional Development, Cde Harold Singh, about what they described as an increase of the crime rate on the bank. Several houses, they said, have been broken and entered and occupants beaten and robbed by armed bandits who operate by night. One farmer suggested to the Minister at a "face-the-community" meeting at Edinburgh that an armed policeman should accompany Community Policing Groups during their patrol at nights. [Text] [Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 14 Jul 84 pp 4-5]

FIRING OF GWU OFFICER--The General Workers' Union has decided to dismiss its General Secretary Cde Aldwyn Sinclair with effect as from yesterday, said Cde Norise Witter, acting President of the union. Sinclair is the second trade unionist from that organisation to have been dismissed by the union within three months. The first was Ferdinand Vieira, treasurer of the organisation. According to Witter, Sinclair was dismissed on the basis of what they called "proven negligence." He said that the Executive Council examined the evidence which was placed before it and decided that it had no confidence in its General Secretary. Sinclair was interdicted from duty in May pending investigations by the Executive Council. A special committee was then appointed by the Council to review the case. Sinclair was appointed by the Executive Council in 1971 and served in that position until he was interdicted. [Text] [Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 17 Jul 84 p 8]

UNION NAME CHANGE--The Guyana Teachers' Association has been renamed the Guyana Teachers' Union (GTU). President of the union, Jean Persico, said the decision to rename the union followed proposals put forward by a committee set up to make amendments to different aspects of the constitution. The proposals for the change in name were approved at the Centenary Anniversary Conference of the union held in April last. The amendments were registered on June 26 making the union officially the Guyana Teachers' Union (GNA). [Text] [Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 24 Jul 84 p 1]

CSO: 3298/1062

## PUBLIC SERVICE STRIKE BRINGS BLACKOUT, WIDER CONCERNS

### Power Outages

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 27 Jul 84 pp 1, 3

[Excerpt] Massive power outages crippled most areas of activity islandwide yesterday and last night as engineers and supervisors of the Jamaica Public Service Company Limited went on strike yesterday morning shutting down all except one of the company's power generating units and reducing output by more than one-third.

Indications late last night, however, were that the workers would resume starting with the 8 a.m. shift today. The late development followed more than six hours of unilateral discussions conducted by the Hon Parnell Charles in his capacity as acting Minister of Labour, with Mr Reg Ennis, General Secretary of the Union of Technical, Administrative and Supervisory Personnel (UTASP) and 10 worker delegates.

During the discussions, the workers presented a number of cases to the Minister in which they said they suffered hardship going to work during the two-day strike last month--some being physically prevented from entering the plant, in some instances gates were padlocked, in others they were subjected to threats.

The company has refused to pay those who did not work for the two days, thus triggering yesterday's strike.

At 11 o'clock last night the Minister said that "a suitable basis" had been reached for a resumption of work starting with an 8 o'clock shift this morning and a meeting of both sides has been set for 10 a.m. today where an attempt will be made to settle the issue. If that meeting proves fruitful, the Industrial Tribunal will be advised and a request made to refer the issue back to the local level for further negotiation.

The power outages yesterday disrupted business operations on a wide scale as only 100 megawatts of power were available out of a potential 250 megawatts. Of that 100 megawatts, 40 percent had to be allocated to the Corporate Area where load-shedding continued for most of the day and night.

The entire industrial estate was hard hit by the power outages which left hundreds of workers idle. Traffic lights at major thoroughfares in Kingston were not functioning, a situation which led to traffic jams. Most major hospitals were not affected, however, as they had standby generators.

The company said that as a result of the strike it was unable to provide normal electricity services to the country as it was without the manpower to do so.

#### Seaga on 'Disruption' Plot

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 27 Jul 84 pp 1, 3

[Text] Prime Minister Edward Seaga said yesterday the JPSCo strike raised the question as to whether it was part of a wider strategy to disrupt the life of the country.

His statement on the matter also included the announcement that the Hon Pearnel Charles is to assume responsibility for the Ministry of Labour for a month.

The statement said:

"It has come to our attention that plans are being laid by some persons to disrupt our Independence celebrations and the arrangements which have been made for enabling the Jamaican people to follow the fortunes of our team at the Olympics over the next three weeks. These groups are interested in using disruption as a means of forcing negotiations for various wage claims in different but relevant public corporations. What this would mean is that a small minority would be seeking to undermine the country's productive capacity as well as to deprive the nation at large of the opportunity to participate in our Independence celebrations and Festival activities and to see and hear live from Los Angeles the performances of the Jamaican and other teams at the Olympic Games.

Those persons who may be involved in this strategy are in the best position to determine whether they stand to gain or lose understanding or support for their cause. It is indefensible to deny the public at large vital supplies of electricity as well as water supplies dependent upon electric pumping systems and critical hospital services out of a selfish motivation to pursue their own specific gains.

Existing legislation provides the means of settlement of all disputes. In this context, I have today appointed the Honourable Pearnel Charles to assume responsibility for the Ministry of Labour for a period of one month and to utilize the channels provided by the Law to deal effectively with all disputes which threaten to disrupt essential services.

The public is aware that Supervisors of the Jamaica Public Service Co have gone out on strike leaving only a handful of Managers to run the Old Harbour and Hunts Bay Stations. It will therefore not be possible to maintain full electricity services on this basis, and as a consequence, there will be load-shedding.

The present problem arise from a claim by the Union of Technical Administrative and Supervisory Personnel (UTASP) that certain workers of the Jamaica Public Service Co had reported for work during the course of industrial action on 19th and 20th June, 1984, although there is not record of their attendance on those two days, and that they should be paid for two days which are in dispute. The Company has taken the position that it does not intend to pay workers who did not attend at the workplace to discharge their duties during the recent work stoppage of 19th and 20th June.

The Government and indeed the people of Jamaica are deeply appreciative of those Supervisors who turned out for work on the two days in question, but the Government equally supports the position that payment cannot be authorised for those who are not recorded as having turned up to work as this would be tantamount to giving strike pay.

This dispute is obviously one which should be examined in the calm atmosphere of adjudication and the Industrial Disputes Tribunal exists to deal with situations of this kind.

It is clearly wrong on the part of the Union to take to the stage of industrial action a matter which was under discussion at the Ministry of Labour, causing inconvenience and dislocation, and thus raising the question as to whether this action may be part of a wider strategy to disrupt the life of the country, particularly at a time when we are all looking forward to the Independence celebrations and the Olympic games, to say nothing of the normal needs for electricity to supply power, water and to enable hospitals to provide vital services.

UTASP represents the supervisory personnel of the Jamaica Public Service Company who are now on strike. It should be expected that senior personnel should better appreciate responsible management practice and display a higher level of discipline. Under the circumstances, those who have taken this action cannot but lose all sympathy of the Jamaican people for their case.

I call upon the supervisory personnel involved to return to work on the understanding that their claims will be promptly dealt with by the Industrial Disputes Tribunal to which the matter has been referred."

CSO: 3298/1063

SEAGA: CUT IN STATE EMPLOYMENT 'DELIBERATE STRATEGY'

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 26 Jul 84 p 1

[Text] Prime Minister Edward Seaga said Tuesday night that the reduction in the public sector employment is not a failure of the Government but a deliberate strategy of transferring resources from a non-productive sector of the economy to other sectors where these resources could be better utilized.

Mr Seaga was addressing a dinner of the Board of Directors of the Jamaica Flour Mills, to mark the opening of the newly expanded wing of the Mills at the Jamaica Pegasus Hotel, New Kingston.

The Prime Minister, who is also Minister of Finance, said in an economy which could mobilize very little resources either internally, or externally, the only alternative was to transfer resources from areas where they were inefficiently utilized to those areas where growth and expansion could be generated.

These areas Mr Seaga identified as Tourism, Manufacturing and Agriculture, and the private sector generally, as examples of the productive sector.

"By strategy, we are compressing the non-productive sector to transfer these resources to the private sector. Hence the reduction in the public sector is not a failure but part of strategy," he said.

Speaking on the agricultural sector, Mr Seaga said that the latest devaluation of the Jamaican dollar had brought buoyancy to this sector and had made several projects feasible and viable. The devaluation had made more viable the production of coffee, cocoa, pimento, citrus, banana, sugar and "ethnic crops."

The devaluation was being used to realize the Government's strategy to substitute local products for imported agricultural products. In four years the country would be 100 percent self-sufficient in fish and meat; 75 percent self-sufficient in rice; 45 percent in soya; 31 percent in corn through the use of cassava as a substitute; and 11 percent self-sufficient in the production of milk.



Thousands of acres of land would therefore be in production--to add 13,000 people to the work-force, and to create U.S. \$130 million in gross savings over the four-year period. Some 26,000 acres of rice would have to be in production in order to meet the 75 percent self-sufficiency level, he added.

Pointing to other effects of the devaluation, the Prime Minister said that the 1984 export of ethnic foods was expected to be 40 million lbs., an increase of 15 million lbs over last year's figure.

To ensure that the planned increase in agricultural production was realized, the Agro 21 Secretariat was doing a feasibility study on the production of rice, fish, meat, and cassava; and within the next six weeks an aggressive campaign would be launched to encourage investment in these areas.

On the question of investment, the Prime Minister informed the gathering that whereas up to the end of 1983 new investments were at a level of two per week, since January 1984 this figure had moved to three per week.

Turning to the operations of the Jamaica Flour Mills, Mr Seaga described its U.S. \$19 million expansion project as the first of the large-scale investment projects to be actually implemented.

This was particularly important, he said, because the Flour Mills was not just expanding its production of baking flour, but was also diversifying into the production of counter flour. This would lead to further savings in foreign exchange.

Mr Seaga praised the Board of Management of the Flour Mills for the expansion programme.

In a brief address, Mr W.H. Spoor, the chairman of Pillsbury, the U.S.-based company with shares in the Flour Mills, described the Flour Mills project as "successful beyond all our dreams."

He said that the decision to spend an additional U.S. \$19 million in the new expansion programme was a response to the "new political will" in Jamaica and to the Caribbean investment," he commented, and added that it was the best yet for his company.

Mr Spoor, however, said that the only failure to date was that he wanted the Mills to be part of a comprehensive food complex which would not only provide food for the local market, but also for the export market.

Mr T.H. Donaldson, chairman of the Board, in his introductory remarks said that the Jamaica Flour Mills could now produce at full capacity, and could satisfy all the demands for flour of the entire Jamaica.



The expansion project, which started in 1982, showed confidence in the "businesslike approach" of the Government, he said.

Senator Hugh Hart, the Honorary Chairman of the company, gave a brief history of Jamaica Flour Mills.

CSO: 3298/1063

SPAULDING ACCUSES PNP OF UNDERMINING SECURITY FORCES

Bridgetown BARBADOS ADVOCATE in English 25 Jul 84 p 3

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, Tuesday (CANA)--Jamaica's National Security Minister, Winston Spaulding, has accused the opposition Peoples National Party (PNP) of spreading lies aimed at destroying the morale of the security forces and weakening their motivation to fight crime.

Spaulding's statement published in the press here today followed one Saturday in which Police Commissioner Joe Williams branded as distortions remarks by PNP leader Michael Manley that the police force was being manipulated.

Manley, at a recent PNP "Peoples Forum," catalogued a number of incidents in which he claimed the police was quick to react in cases of reported incidents against supporters of the ruling Jamaica Labour Party (JLP).

He, however, charged that they did not act with such alacrity when opposition supporters were involved, and in a number of cases when policemen should themselves face charges.

Commissioner Williams, who has had a stormy relationship with the PNP which objected to his appointment, rejected the charges, and declared: "It is one thing under the purported lover of the rule of law to make allegations which in the end are of public benefit. But it is quite another when these allegations are not only distorted but are so couched as to be gravely injurious and detrimental to the very institutions which are the bastion of the rule of law."

Spaulding's statement followed the same theme, and he particularly took issue with questions raised a PNP forum several months ago over who was paying Jamaican soldiers in Grenada.

The party had asked whether it was in fact the Americans, and whether the soldiers received only a portion of the allowances provided while the government took the rest to help out the balance of payments situation.

The Jamaica government did not respond to the questions, but a U.S. diplomat in a clear reference to the issue had said in a speech here that Caribbean soldiers in Grenada were being paid by regional governments.

Referring to the issue, Spaulding said: "This caused many soldiers to believe this lie and some began to question the behaviour and motives of the JDF (Jamaican Defence Force) officers and the government.

"Senior officers of the JDF had to intervene to communicate with the men to avoid the development of unpleasant reactions which had started on the party of some soldiers."

Spaulding, who is also Minister of Justice and Attorney General, said such behaviour must be condemned.

He added: "The PNP must know that each time these lies are told, to the extent they are believed they destroy the moral of security personnel and weaken their motivation in the fight against crime.

"Still they persist in such actions knowing what they are doing and the effects these statements will have."

The minister also accused the PNP of damaging the image of the country abroad through the spreading of lies.

CSO: 3298/1063

## JAMAICA

### ILLEGAL AUTO IMPORTS, CORRUPTION PLAGUE DEALERS

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 26 Jul 84 pp 1, 3

[Excerpt] The multi-million dollar automobile dealers' industry is reeling from illegal imports of vehicles and parts, and frequent changing in Government's import policy.

Government is not only losing well needed revenue in the rackets which run throughout the import system, but it is believed in certain circles that the corruption could be clamped down on, but certain persons in high places do not seem to want this.

The Automobile Dealers' Association (ADA) of Jamaica Limited in an interview with the Gleaner yesterday came public, following the lead of the Customs Brokers' Association (CBA) last week, with the open secret of corruption rife at the waterfront and airport entry points, and taking bigger dimensions over the past two years.

Mr Roy DeSouza, ADA's chairman, said the public ought to know that the Association was against all forms of illicit importation, whether vehicles or parts.

"That is why we are in unison with the customs brokers and endorse what they said."

On July 19, the CBA at a news conference expressed concern at the "irregularities" on the waterfront, which included the illicit importation of vehicles and made a call that only licensed customs brokers should be allowed on the wharves, and for more representation on the Customs Advisory Committee to cut down on the rackets going on there.

The ADA is asking for representation on what Mr DeSouza described as a "secret" committee dealing with the importation of vehicles.

He said they were the experts in the field and had made certain recommendations to Government which had not been acted on, and if they had been acted on what was going on now could have been prevented.

On February 27 last, Mr DeSouza had written to the chairman of the Motor Vehicle Committee (of which Trade Administrator Mr Ed McKie is reportedly chairman) expressing concern that the ADA was not represented on the committee.

In a reply dated March 13, a letter from the Trade Board said the committee was set up at Ministerial level and outside the purview of the Board, but they had sent a copy of the letter for the attention of the Minister of Industry and Commerce.

Mr DeSouza said up to yesterday they had got no reply from the Ministry.

On September 7, 1983, the ADA had written to the Trade Administrator asking for the names of the persons on the Motor Vehicle Committee and had been told it was not the policy of the committee to disclose their names.

CSO: 3298/1063

ADEQUATE SUPPLY OF BASIC FOOD ITEMS NOW AVAILABLE

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 27 Jul 84 p 1

[Text] Supplies of basic food commodities which had been short for some time are now available and by the end of the month should almost all be available in adequate quantities, the Minister of Industry and Commerce, the Hon Douglas Vaz, said on Wednesday.

Mr Vaz, who was speaking at a function marking the official opening of the expanded Flour Mill facilities at Rockford, Kingston, said that it was necessary that the public be informed of the situation with the supplies of the commodities, as it had become evident that higgler were buying up large wholesale amounts to sell on the black market, expecting that the shortage would last through August.

He said that most of the items were in plentiful supply and, except for sardines which were running short, should be in adequate supply from the end of this month prior to the Independence celebrations. However, he expressed concern that a run on the commodities by the higgler could affect the supplies.

The Minister said the first shipment of 6,200 tonnes of rice was now being distributed. Another cargo of 4,000 tonnes will arrive on July 31. Thereafter, additional supplies totalling 10,500 tonnes are scheduled to arrive between August and September to cover supplies to October.

Three months supply of rice is now here and 19,642 cases were released to the distributors two weeks ago.

There are adequate stocks of wheat in the island. In addition, supplies have been ordered to keep the market fully supplied through to December, provided the Canadian Wheat Board facilities are kept current and the Bank of Jamaica is in a position to establish letters of credit.

There are adequate stocks of corn for both meal and animal feeds and supplies have been ordered through to the end of August.

Stock-out date for supplies of soya beans is August 2, and the next shipment is due to arrive on July 30. Supplies have been ordered up to mid-September.



On Monday, July 23, 2,400 bags of counter flour were delivered. Another 4,500 bags were delivered on Tuesday. A continuity of supply of some 4,500 bags daily can be expected from now on.

On baking flour, Mr Vaz said that 6,300 bags were delivered on Monday. Another 4,500 bags were distributed on Tuesday. Like counter flour, a continuity of supplies of about 4,500 bags daily can be expected from now on. In addition, two purchases of about 20,000 bags each have been made to arrive as follows: July 25, 6,800 bags; August 1, 13,350 bags; August 15, 20,000 bags.

Mackerel is in good supply, the Minister said. Arrival has been at 10,000 cases per month. In mid-August, 20,000 cases of Talay are expected from Thailand.

Sardines are running short. The Canadian source, CIDA, will supply 143,000 cases for the remainder of the year, to come on stream by August/September.

CSO: 3298/1063

PETROLEUM REFINERY AUDIT SHOWS PROFIT FOR FIRST 14 MONTHS

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 27 Jul 84 p 21

[Text] The audited results of the Petrojam Refinery (formerly the Esso Refinery) operations for the first 14 months of its operations show that there has been a profit before tax of \$15 million, Minister of Mining and Energy, the Hon Hugh Hart, told the Senate last Friday.

Senator Hart was giving a report on the performance of the refinery in the 14 months since its acquisition from Esso in October 1982 up to December 31, 1983 in the State of the Nation Debate in the Senate.

He said that in addition, the refinery made commission and dividend payments to its parent company, the Petroleum Corporation of Jamaica, totalling \$20.2 million, which together with an after-tax profit of \$7.4 million gave a 23.7% return on net capital employed of \$116.6 million.

Those earnings were made after interest payments of \$7.8 million and devaluation losses of \$7.9 million, he said.

The Minister was reacting to recent questions raised in the Gleaner and elsewhere about the situation with the refinery.

Senator Hart said that the refinery was in operation and producing its own product from crude oil.

He said that during the period January 1, 1983 to December 31, 1983, the refinery's operations resulted in savings to Jamaica of approximately U.S. \$8.7 million, as it would have been more expensive to import finished product.

"A contributor to these savings was the fact that Petrojam was able to take advantage of lower priced Venezuelan crude only available to a nationally-owned refinery. Certain modifications had to be made to the refinery's facilities to enable the processing also of significant quantities of Mexican crude," he said.

Another aspect of its performance was the fact that as a locally-owned refinery, profits were no longer remitted to a foreign-based parent company. Head Office charges were also eliminated and technology support charges significantly reduced. Savings in freight costs were also made when compared with freight costs under previous ownership.

On the question of profits which should have been repatriated by Esso, Senator Hart said that although he supported foreign investment and the right of investors to repatriate profits, one could not deny the fact that under local ownership, Esso's profit objective was not repatriated and hence, represented a saving to the country.

He said that Esso's profit objective under a guaranteed profit margin pricing regime was U.S. \$11 million, which after tax would have resulted in a new outflow of U.S. \$6.1 million.

He said that the total U.S. dollar saving was U.S. \$12.4 million, including \$1.5 million savings on head office charges, \$6.1 million on repatriated profits, \$2 million on feedstock composition and \$1.4 million on earnings on exports and product exchanges.

"When this figure is compared with the U.S. \$14 million paid for the fixed assets, it can indeed be concluded that Government would almost have paid for the refinery in a little over a year in foreign exchange savings only.

"In addition to savings in foreign exchange derived, due to processing crude oil instead of importing finished product, the Petrojam Refinery was able to earn some not insignificant amounts of foreign exchange due to exports, bunker sales, sales to one bauxite company and some trading activities, mainly exchanging Petrojam produced fuel oil at premium.

"For the period January 1, 1983 to December 31, 1983, these export activities resulted in earnings of U.S. \$1.4 million. It should be emphasized that this was in addition to the U.S. \$8.7 million in savings that was mentioned earlier."

He said that prior to the purchase of the refinery by the Government, the pricing system was based on a guaranteed profit margin. On January 1, 1983, Petrojam was able to introduce a refinery pricing system on a purely commercial basis which related petroleum product prices to the Caribbean market rather than to the guaranteed formula.

Petrojam's ex-refinery prices have since been basically the prices the country would have had to pay if the products were imported on an arms length basis from the two large refineries in the Caribbean. The new system resulted in ex-refinery prices below those which prevailed in 1982.

"In summary, the Petrojam refinery has continued to be well run and well maintained, and its outstanding safety record has continued. Despite difficulties with foreign exchange, it has been able to maintain a supply of petroleum products to the market."

He paid tribute to the staff of the refinery for their responsibility, dedication and expertise "second to none"; as well as the "co-operative effort" of both Mexico and Venezuela. He also paid a special tribute to Nigeria, who he said had been "most supportive of Jamaica," although not geographically in the region.

CSO: 3298/1064

## JAMAICA

### BRIEFS

COCOA PRODUCTION--Kingston, Aug 9, CANA--Jamaica's cocoa production for 1984 is expected to pass the 2,000-ton mark for the second consecutive year indicating that the decline in the industry was now levelling out, Agriculture Minister Percival Broderick said. According to Broderick, last year's production of 2,738 long tons was the best in over two decades, and production this year, though expected to be lower at 2,600 tonnes, will continue the trend. [Text] [Bridgetown CANA in English 1800 GMT 9 Aug 84 FL]

AMBASSADOR FROM NICARAGUA--Kingston, Jamaica, Aug 7, CANA--Nicaragua has appointed its envoy to the Dominican Republic Geronimo Danilo Valle Martinez as its non-resident ambassador to Jamaica, the foreign ministry here announced. Jamaica and Nicaragua established diplomatic relations in 1975. Jamaica's Ambassador to Mexico Louis Boothe is also accredited as the non-resident ambassador to Nicaragua. [Text] [Bridgetown CANA in English 1652 GMT 7 Aug 84 FL]

CSO: 3298/1064

PERU

#### BRIEFS

NEW INTELLIGENCE AGENCY--In compliance with the directive issued by Minister Percovich, a special agency designated as SEMIN (Interior Ministry Intelligence Service) has been created in the Interior Ministry. Its function is to evaluate and analyze all information on the "internal front" gathered by the intelligence directorates of the Police Forces, with the objectives of preventing waste of resources and, especially, of centralizing all ministry research and intelligence efforts under a unified command. Within this context, the division, by specific orders from Percovich, has directed all its work toward two areas that currently appear to be linked in many cases: terrorism and illegal drug trafficking.  
[Text] [Lima OIGA in Spanish 6 Aug 84 p 11]

CSO: 3348/543



GENERAL ELECTION AS SEEN FROM LABOUR PARTY PERSPECTIVE

Program Commitments

Basseterre THE LABOUR SPOKESMAN in English 6 Jun 84 p 1

[Text] In a series of very successful public meetings held all over the island of St Kitts since last Sunday night, the Labour Party has presented parts of its policy, plans and programme for the upliftment of the people of St Kitts out of the oppression and deprivation wilfully imposed by the Simmonds government during the past 4 and 1/2 years.

The last two meetings were held last night in Cayon and at George Street, New Town, and were attended by huge crowds.

The commitments made by Labour included:-

- \* A 10% wage increase for all sugar workers backdated to the start of the 1984 crop.
- \* A 50% reduction in the electricity rates.
- \* The removal of increases in house and land tax.
- \* No personal income tax.
- \* A national minimum wage of \$2.50 per hour and a 40-hour week.
- \* Security of employment--no victimisation, no political dismissals.
- \* The Island of St Kitts will have its own government.
- \* Free laboratory tests and X-rays.
- \* Free textbooks for high school students and government payment of overseas examination fees.
- \* Special assistance to private enterprise, including fishermen and farmers.
- \* Training allowances to young people attending training courses.

- \* Sportsmen and sportswomen selected to represent St Kitts in cricket, football and netball to be paid salaries while they train full-time.
- \* Free medical attention and medicines for people over 65 years of age.
- \* Equality of treatment and a special development programme for women.
- \* Child allowance of \$10 per week for needy children under 10 years of age.

The first few days of the 1984 General Election campaign have shown that part of the PAM strategy is to send groups of hooligans to try to disrupt Labour meetings.

But the plan has not worked. The people all over St Kitts have been responding very well to the Labour meetings and have been paying careful attention to what Labour has to say.

Meanwhile, the Labour Party programme of house-to-house canvassing has met with a tremendous response from voters and families all over St Kitts.

#### Disruption of Labour Meetings

Basseterre THE LABOUR SPOKESMAN in English 9 Jun 84 p 12

[Text] As the first week of the 1984 General Elections campaign ends, the prospect of violence during the next 12 days is moving centre stage as one of the key issues in the elections.

The Peoples Action Movement, as part of its preparation for the elections, has organised groups of its supporters to go to Labour Party meetings for the deliberate purpose of disturbing those meetings.

A public meeting at Stapleton Village last night was disrupted and had to stop for about 10 minutes because of a fight between a Labour supporter and a PAM activist who had been desperately trying to disturb the meeting from the time it started.

Groups of PAM hooligans have tried to disturb Labour meetings at George Street (New Town), Boyds Village, Lodge Village, Stapleton Cayon, Old Road and Keys.

On our front page we report two incidents in which a young man who announces Labour meetings has lodged complaints with the Police that he has been assaulted.

These developments are very serious. This newspaper calls on the Commissioner of Police to instruct his men to deal firmly and quickly with attempts by PAM to provoke political violence during the elections campaign.

Where things start is not there they end. Neither PAM nor the Police should make the grave mistake of believing that the Labour Party will continue to allow PAM hooligans to disturb its meetings while the Police do nothing about it.

#### Doubts About Validity of Results

Basseterre THE LABOUR SPOKESMAN in English 27 Jun 84 pp 1, 2

[Excerpts] Thousands of Labour Party members and supporters filled Masses Yard to capacity and crowded College Street, Masses House and Church Street last Sunday night (24 June) to listen to what Comrade Lee Moore and the other leaders of the Labour Party had to say about the General Elections held on Thursday 21 June.

According to the results published by Supervisor of Elections, Mr Eugene Petty, late Thursday night and early Friday morning, the governing Peoples Action Movement obtained 8,596 (or 53.2%) of the votes cast in the elections and won 6 of the 8 seats in St Kitts.

The Labour Party obtained 7,463 (or 46.2%) of the votes cast and won 2 seats.

As a matter of comparison, in the General Elections held in 1980 in St Kitts, Labour obtained 6,914 votes (58.1% of the votes cast) and won 4 seats while PAM obtained 4,990 votes (41.6% of the votes cast) and won 3 seats.

The number of registered voters increased from 15,343 in 1980 to 19,887 in 1984. There was an increase of 4,166 in the number of persons who actually voted in 1984.

The Labour vote in 1984 increased by 549 voters while the PAM vote increased by 3,606 voters.

The Labour candidates in the 1984 General Elections expressed the view that the results published by the Supervisor of Elections were not a true reflection of the support given to the various candidates by the electorate in the elections.

They noted that even before the casting of the votes was completed on Election Day, PAM agents in several areas had been heard boasting about how many persons would vote in various polling stations, how many votes PAM would receive and how many votes Labour would receive.

They also listed a number of irregularities.

In general, the Labour candidates questioned the validity of the election result and said that Labour was taking urgent measures to discover all that had gone wrong.

## Labour's Contribution

Basseterre THE LABOUR SPOKESMAN in English 27 Jun 84 p 2

[Editorial]

[Text] In one of the most moving numbers in a very moving musical called EVITA the lead player in the title role sings

"Don't cry for me Argentina; The truth is, I never left you. In all my wild days, my mad existence, I kept my promise, don't keep your distance."

There is some of the same sweet pathos in that song as in the scene where Jesus turns to face the tear filled women following him on the way to his crucifixion and says "Daughters of Jerusalem weep not for me..."

It is in that same vein that we feel justified in suggesting that there is really no need to shed any tears for Labour.

Even if, as some assert, Labour is now dead, Labour needs no mourners. For Labour has had a useful and constructive life and has made a contribution which cannot be measured in terms of its years.

Labour has touched every facet of life in this community.

Labour has transformed the face of this land.

It has brought light where there was darkness.

In place of squalor it has raised up loveliness.

A land once littered with hovels made from the cane trash now boasts some of the most elegant homes in the entire Caribbean.

Workers whose lives were so much drudgery have been given worth and dignity.

Labour made eminent academics and respected professionals out of the sons and daughters of unlettered field hands.

Labour created conditions conducive to economic development.

There is nothing of any merit to date that has been accomplished but for the efforts of Labour.

Homes, schools, factories and business houses all attest to the part played by Labour.

With a record like that Labour has nothing of which to be ashamed and there need be no tears for Labour.

That is, even if Labour were dead. But Labour is not dead. Labour cannot die. Tom Manchester who is rightly credited as being the founder of Labour, died a long time ago but Labour kept right on living. Robert Bradshaw deemed by Labour to be the First National Hero has been dead these six years but Labour still survived.

And Labour will survive the defeat at the polls of a few individuals. Because Labour is not any of those individuals. And Labour is more than all of those individuals.

Labour needs no tears in respect of the general elections just finished. Labour fought a vigorous and effective campaign on a high level. It was a campaign which challenged the electorate to deal with fundamental issues facing the country.

It was a campaign based upon a Manifesto that identified the areas of acutest suffering among the people and proposed ways of dealing with those sufferings.

It was a campaign which refused to descend to the level of vile personal abuse either of opposing politicians or of those not in politics at all.

It was a campaign which was reaching out to what was the best in man.

The numbers that followed the campaign trail were an index that the campaign was impacting the electorate. Nor was there any evidence that the impact of the campaign was in any way minimised by anything untoward said or done.

Labour's team of candidates was a united dedicated group of men and the unity and dedication showed through. They are a bunch of men whose quality and competence can see them through anywhere so there is no need to shed tears for them or for Labour.

If the results of the General Elections are genuine Labour needs no needs. For the results would mean that the people--

Voted for the continuation of the intense suffering of the last 4 and 1/2 years;

Voted to have the country divided into two nations with one part kept permanently out of job and livelihood.

Voted to sanction the worst corruption the Caribbean has ever known.

Voted to approve the alienation of the people's heritage.

Voted to reject relief from oppressive property taxes and electricity tariffs;

Voted to deny themselves assistance in many cases with fatherless children;

Voted to refuse help for their children in schools with text books and exam fees; etc.

If the electorate really voted in that way--and we have our doubts--then we are sure that there need no tears for Labour.

But interestingly enough while our Lord asked that there be no tears for him he himself stood near to Jerusalem, looked on and wept over it saying--

"If thou hadst known, even thou, at least in this day the things which belong unto thy peace! but now they are hid from thine eyes."

CSO: 3298/1065



## ST VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES

### MITCHELL PICKS 6-MEMBER TEAM TO EVALUATE ECONOMY

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 6 Aug 84 p 5

[Text] Kingstown, Sun., (Cana)--Prime Minister James Mitchell of St Vincent and The Grenadines has announced the appointment of a six-member committee to evaluate the state of the economy, following his New Democratic Party's (NDP) 9-4 victory in last month's general election here.

At his first Press conference since gaining power on July 25, Mitchell said the committee would prepare an ind-depth analysis of public sector financing, with particular reference to the country's public debt.

Also to be studied are the guarantees given by Central Government for loans raised by statutory bodies and semi-governmental institutions, as well as the disposition of Government funding to statutory bodies, public corporations and other entities in which public funds are invested or have been disbursed.

Mitchell listed 25 statutory bodies and State entities including the sugar industry, the banana industry and the arrowroot industry, which are to be investigated.

He made it clear that there would be no commission of enquiry and that he was not indulging in any "witch hunts." He said the intention was first of all to let the people know of the findings so they could know what state the country's economy was in.

Mitchell added: "If there are any misdemeanours or any misappropriations, the matters will then be referred to the Director of Public Prosecutions for action."

The committee, which is to be chaired by Vincentian Noel Venner, former Secretary of the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB), will also look into the disposition of Government's assets and accountability for such assets.

Mitchell said that the team would examine and report on the arrangements for amortisation of outstanding loans made by the previous Government of former Prime Minister Milton Cato, and the outstanding debts owed by the administration.

Another mandate is to analyse disbursements relating to outstanding debt, amortisation and interest payments on an annual basis up to the maturity dates.

The other team members are also all Vincentians and include Arhnhim Eustace, senior manager, Projects Division of the DCB, Joe de Freitas, a chartered accountant, Albert Edwards, a systems analysts accountant who is the committee's secretary, Verrol Small, an accountant, assistant secretary to the committee, and Gillian Nanton, an economist in the Ministry of Finance here, as special liaison officer.

Three consultants have been retained to work with the committee, which is to prepare an interim report within a month, and submit the final document two months after that.

CSO: 3298/1066

## ST VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES

### BRIEFS

OVERSEAS MARKETING--Kingstown, St Vincent, Tuesday, (CANA)--Eastern Caribbean Agencies (ECA) which markets agricultural produce from St Vincent and the Grenadines is expanding its operations overseas in an effort to improve marketing capabilities, the company's Managing Director Marcus De Freitas said here. De Freitas said ECA has now set up an associate company in England to market fresh fruit and other agricultural produce from the country on the markets of the United Kingdom and Europe. He said he was also looking at the possibility of marketing packaged arrowroot starch in Britain. De Freitas said during a recent trip to Britain, a British firm had expressed interest in buying more than 14 000 one-pound packets of arrowroot starch weekly. He said ECA had already opened negotiations with the St Vincent Arrowroot Industry Association with a view to becoming the industry's distributor of packaged starch in Britain and Europe. ECA was last April appointed marketing agents in Canada for St Vincent's arrowroot starch and has already sold 170,000 pounds of starch on the Canadian market. [Text] [Port-of-Spain EXPRESS in English 18 Jul 84 p 42]

CSO: 3298/1066

MOHAMMED REJECTS TALK ABOUT SPLIT IN CABINET

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 6 Aug 84 p 1

[Text] Any talk about a split in the hierarchy of the ruling People's National Movement is just wishful thinking, Mr Kamaluddin Mohammed, Minister of Agriculture and one of three Deputy Political Leaders of the PNM, said last Saturday night.

He added: "What split are they talking about? Because somebody is nominated for a post in the party they call that a split? If you don't have nominations for posts in organisations where people are elected, then that organisation is dead.

"The only split that I know about--in fact two splits--left the party sometime ago and you will hear more about those splits before 1986 (laughter).

"I am saying categorically there is no split in the Cabinet."

Mr Mohammed, speaking at the annual conference of the St Augustine Constituency of the PNM, said among other things:

--For the first time there was a glut on the local market of locally grown vegetables;

--Government had not abandoned the plan to use DEWD labourers to boost the agricultural sector.

--The 1984 annual convention of the PNM was not being held in Tobago next month so that Prime Minister George Chambers, in his capacity as Political Leader, would have his way in the election of officers for the ensuing term.

--Mr Chambers was not obliged to call on the Tobago House of Assembly during his extended (and interrupted) working visit to the sister island.

Speaking to the audience at the Circle S Disco, Tunapuna, Mr Mohammed began his address by saying it was the first time he went into a discotheque and he was frightened about what to expect inside (laughter).

He praised the St Augustine constituency, which through its persistency was able to get many amenities and facilities even though it was not represented by the PNM in Parliament.

#### Agriculture Policy

On the agricultural scene Mr Mohammed said the situation this year gave the lie to claims that Government had no agricultural policy.

"We have a glut in locally-produced crops such as tomatoes, cabbages and melongenes. We are finding problems to store the produce because there is no room in cold storage.

"Daily farmers are being turned away by the authorities because we cannot buy their produce. We are now looking into various ways to disposing of the produce.

"Even with all the floods the prices have not increased. We have asked our Extension Officers to advise farmers of this development. Even in the area of poultry we are experiencing a glut on the market."

Mr Mohammed said no requests for assistance in the rearing of poultry or pigs would be entertained because of the glut.

"And you are telling me there is no agriculture policy?"

On the Tobago visit by Mr Chambers, Mr Mohammed asked why people were being so "uncharitable" to the Prime Minister in their comments, said that when the Prime Minister visited counties and boroughs in Trinidad, he did not call on the Mayors or the County Council chairmen.

The problem, he said, arose from the opinion held in certain quarters, that there was a separate government in Tobago.

Mr Mohammed, a Minister for 28 years--the longest serving in the Commonwealth Caribbean--added: "There are some people who speak in glib terms about the unitary State of Trinidad and Tobago but in fact would like Tobago to be treated as a separate entity."

On the convention carded for September 29 and 30 at Signal Hill Senior Comprehensive School, Mr Mohammed said:

"For a long time we were thinking about holding a convention in Tobago. The decision was not taken by Mr Chambers. It was a decision of the General Council. And because our party is democratically structured, it is not what the Political Leader wants. It is the rank and file membership who would elect those officers."

CSO: 3298/1067

ANALYSIS OF OPPOSITION UNITY EFFORTS, FUTURE IMPACT

Port-of-Spain SUNDAY GUARDIAN in English 5 Aug 84 p 6

[Article by Kit Roxburgh]

[Text] To put it nearly in terms of the well-known advertisement, They've Come A Long Way, Baby.

The opposition parties, that is. Last week a name emerged, one more step along the enormous and winding, sometimes deceptive road towards some form of coalition to fight the next general elections.

The common foe being the People's National Movement. The elections will fall on or before 1986--more likely before, the opposition seems to feel.

Perhaps it is this sense of urgency that has led to four major parties moving onwards as the National Alliance for Reconstruction, the week-old baby consisting of the United Labour Front (ULF), led by Mr Basdeo Panday, The democratic Action Congress, headed by Mr A.N.R. Robinson, The Organisation for National Reconstruction whose leader is Mr Karl Hudson-Phillips and the Tapia House Movement. Chairman of Tapia was Mr Lloyd Best, but following his decision to work in Africa, Tapia's reins are now being held by Dr B. Tewari.

Fragile

It could be that the present togetherness is a fragile affair.

Perhaps.

But what is certain is even to have reached this name-forming stage is an achievement when one considers a previous habit of name-calling by the various leaders.

For me, this came into focus when, out of the mail, there emerged a letter and a magazine and various printed matters concerning West Indians in the United Kingdom.



They were sent to me by Michael Stewart who was a classmate of mine and whose movements, career and character are, to put it mildly, incredible and worthy of an extended novel.

How would you react if someone who went to school with you and appeared quite normal, writes you about his expedition (with wife and small child) across the Sahara Desert--on foot? But we will come back to Michael--whose name isn't Stewart anymore but Michael Arch Angel--some day.

The point is, he is at present a poet, and perhaps because of this current affair with verse, sent the magazine. It is called "Frontline," and the fact that this issue came in London in 1981 did not seem to matter to Michael The Sender.

The magazine had been published by Blacks in England and contained a very good poem by Nkemka Asika, and pieces on books and records.

And it also contained a series of interviews done by Sebastien Clarke, whose name, according to a handwritten alteration, has been changed to Amon Saba Saarkana--I hope the handwriting has been interpreted correctly.

He also edited the edition and a review of his work shows fairly solid interviewing, marred only by overlengthy replies to his questions.

An editorial condemns the news media in Trinidad and Tobago, and says that the National Joint Action Committee is the only non-conventional party with crucial relevance to the Trinidad and Tobago situation.

But, it goes on, this role of NJAC has been met with almost total disregard by the media in the nation.

The edition, a special one with a focus on the then pressing 1981 elections, is instructive if one relates the statements made at the time by Panday, Hudson-Phillips, Best and Robinson with their positions now.

Even more than that, it shows that in the world of politics there must be an astonishing amount of compromise.

Tapia

Asked if he had concretised in any way the idea of a coalition, Mr Panday stated that at the time there was wrangling but informal talks were going on.

Were the ONR and the DAC involved?

The DAC, Panday replied, and the ULF had talked with some people from Tapia. Those were the only two groups at the moment. He went on:

"As far as the ONR is concerned, Hudson-Phillips is obviously not interested at all in removing the PNM. Hudson-Phillips is interested only in removing the head of the PNM and filling the position for himself.

"So his objective is different from the objectives of all other opposition groups.

"And he formed the ONR and taught them that if they could get off the ground he would use that, and that would give him the lever to replace the leadership of the PNM.

"He was always in a quandary, you see, because the rank and file of the ONR was under the impression that what he wants to do is to replace the government. That was never his bag."

Mr A.N.R. Robinson was reminded that in 1976 there was an attempt to create some sort of unity among opposition parties, particularly between the DAC and the ULF.

Did you foresee that the ULF would have done so well in the elections? he was asked. If so, how would you have approached the situation?

Mr Robinson said he had thought of that situation very deeply.

"I was convinced that it was impossible that any real change could come about unless there was a coalition of the forces for change in the period, and I was personally concerned about that.

"But it was an impossible situation for this reason; firstly the DAC had been in the field for several years before, and the ULF was a new organisation.

"It came up, first of all as an industrial force for trade unions. And they formed a political party only at the last moment.

"It is impossible to see, really, what would be the impact of a party which was formed so soon, at such a late stage. In fact, my forecast was that the party would not last.

"You cannot form a party in the year of an election and expect that party to last. In fact, you cannot form a party in the year of an election.

"You have all sorts of opportunists who want positions or who want seats, as the case may be, who would join the party and support it if they think the party is likely to win seats.

"You are not going to have that sense of commitment that you would have if you had gone through the battle in difficult times, like the DAC had done."

Mr Robinson said that a second point about uniting with the ULF at the time (just before the 1976 elections) was that to concede to the kinds of demands that the ULF was making was, in his view "to concede the reversion of Trinidad back to racial politics, and this has been borne out in the ULF itself, the split along racial lines.

Mr Robinson said that the ULF was formed along racial lines, and that was what the DAC had overcome or thought they had overcome.

He felt that to revert to that position in an election year would have been just "purely opportunist politics," giving away everything that had been gained in the previous years.

Mr Best, asked about Tapia publications and their apparent aim at a very small, educated sector, gave a long and somewhat complicated reply.

In his answer he said that it is wrong to believe that reaching out to the people of this country means a political conversion.

### Elections

People here do not vote because of their political persuasions, and elections in Trinidad and Tobago elections are not about the performances of government.

Within the ruling party there is perpetual government and opposition going on and within the opposition party there is perpetual opposition and government going on.

"Which is why Williams could buy out (Dr Rudranath) Capildeo" he continued.

"Because Capildeo, although he was in the opposition, in the formal Westminster sense, he really was a PNM representative inside there, or came to be, in his own party.

"And the same is true with the current leader (Mr Basdeo Panday) which is why the ULF split. Because within the ULF there are people who could quite easily fit into the government and do so informally and could be called into consultation for all kinds of purposes, and even voted with the government on a crucial bill."

Questioned about the formation of a coalition if a number of opposition parties won more seats than the PNM in a general election, Mr Karl Hudson-Phillips replied:

### Plans

"The postulation is, assumed that no party gets absolute majority, whether the ONR would co-operate with other political groupings.

"Yes, provided we can come to an accommodation on certain basic fundamentals.

"One is the question of the centralisation of power. Two is the primacy of the individual as the unit and gearing everything to the ultimate edification of the individual and not the state.

"Provided we can reach agreement on the question of land and the equitable distribution of land, which we are very strong on, and also the organisation of the foreign policy to emphasise regional co-operation."

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

GRENADIANS SEEK CONCESSIONS; COOPERATION PROPOSED

Businessmen's Appeal

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 8 Aug 84 p 1

[Article by Kit Roxburgh]

[Text] Grenada's businessmen want \$100,000 as an interest-free loan from Trinidad and Tobago towards a fund for the commercial community in that country.

They also call for an investigation into the present arrangements under which fuel, including liquid petroleum gas (LPG, mainly used for cooking) is supplied to Grenada.

And they see a need for faster clearance facilities in this country's Central Bank which will enable more prompt payments to Grenadian exporters.

More than these financial affairs, the Grenada Employers' Federation, in its recommendations to the Ulric Cross team which visited the Spice Isle on Cabinet's request in June last, saw some human rights issues that needed attention. One is an investigation into treatment of Grenadian immigrants in Trinidad jails.

Another, the upgrading of the Grenadian image in this country.

To put the last mentioned issue in the federation's words, Government here should "find ways of upgrading the image of Grenadians in Trinidad and Tobago and make known the contributions Grenadians have made to the development of Trinidad through the historical ties that have always existed between our two people."

In its own views and recommendations, the Trinidad and Tobago Aid Mission to Grenada, consisting of political, religious, business, labour and other representatives, dealt sharply with important issues.

### Greeted With Scepticism

The team was greeted with scepticism as its visit to Grenada began. Grenadians felt that the mission meant well, but there would have been a lot of dawdling at a time when Grenada needed action, not heel-dragging.

Biggest issue, the Grenadians on a whole felt, was the visa matter, introduced after last October's upheaval in that island.

Grenadians want the visa fee of \$6 to be abolished. It was seen as a hardship on Grenadians. Once weekly visits there by Immigration Officers from Trinidad and Tobago caused inconvenience and expense.

The mission had a favourable response from the Trinidad and Tobago Government on this matter, the team's report said.

Former Appeal Court judge, Mr Ulric Cross's findings, laid in the Trinidad and Tobago Senate yesterday, spoke of an exhaustive amount of requests from Grenada for technical assistance. From Trinidad's public and private sectors.

These requests came from Chairman of Grenada's interim government (also called Advisory Council) which is headed by Mr Nicholas Brathwaite, trade unions in that country, their Port Authority, community groups, government and private enterprises.

Public sector technical needs ranged far and very wide: youths camps like those in Trinidad need to be helped to a start, specialists in agriculture should be sent to Grenada from Trinidad, scholarships are necessary in air traffic control, land surveying and other fields. Experienced personnel in the area of road construction should be "loaned."

### Unfavourable Trade Balance

In any event, this matter of assistance, either by sending Trinidadians to Grenada or accommodating Grenadians for training here should be "centralised" and dealt with expeditiously, the Grenadians urged.

The Cross team was "led to believe" that there is an unfavourable balance of trade between the two countries. Figures for 1982 provided by Grenada's Chamber of Commerce showed that there was a sum of TT \$18 million in Trinidad and Tobago's favour.

The report from the mission to the Senate yesterday said:

"Our own import restrictions and currency control had imposed constraints on bilateral trade between the two countries, and the predicament of the [word illegible] industry was cited as an example of economic [words illegible] led to large-scale unemployment."



The Grenada Development Bank, not [words illegible] as an active agent in that country's reconstruction private sector financial institutions in Trinidad (aided [word illegible] government to government assistance) is seen as necessary the mission.

Private sector groups in Grenada think that the country's commercial organisations, such as the Employers' Consultative Association (ECA), Chamber of Commerce and Manufacturers' Association (TTMA) should get closer to their counterparts in that island.

Trade unions, too, should increase their contacts with Grenada, said the mission, which recommended that scholarships should be given to Grenadians, tenable at the Cipriani Labour College in Trinidad.

#### Cross Committee Recommendations

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 8 Aug 84 p 1

[Text] Following is a summary of the Cabinet appointed committee, under the chairmanship of former Appeal Court Judge Ulric Cross, which was set up to visit Grenada and identify possible areas of co-operation between Trinidad and Tobago and that country.

The team's report was laid in the Senate yesterday. Appointed by Cabinet in May, it consisted of 14 members from varying interest sectors in this country. Staying in Grenada from June 11 to 16, the mission met a wide cross-section of the Grenadian community.

The summary:

--The abolition of the visa fee of \$6.00.

--An increase in the visits of Trinidad and Tobago Immigration Officers to two successive days per week. (NOTE: The above recommendations have already received Cabinet approval).

--There should be a constant review of the visa policy and the mechanics for implementation.

--An investigation be instituted into allegations of ill-treatment of illegal immigrants.

--Government should expedite consideration of Grenada's application to draw upon the Caricom Oil Facility.

--Counterpart funding for infrastructure projects should be made available as soon as possible.

--The early establishment of a Trinidad and Tobago Consulate in Grenada taking into account the cost factor and the mutual benefits to be derived therefrom.



--Pending the establishment of a permanent Trinidad and Tobago presence in Grenada, the Ministry of External Affairs should take urgent steps to deal with requests for technical assistance from Grenada.

--Assistance from private sector institutions in Grenada's reconstruction efforts and closer co-operation between those institutions in Trinidad and Tobago and their counterparts in Grenada by way of investment, scholarships tenable in Trinidad and Tobago, etc.

--A programme of assistance to New Life Organisation to be prepared by SERVOL, and the Government of Trinidad and Tobago assist in its implementation.

CSO: 3298/1067

## TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

### POPE JOHN PAUL TO STOP HERE ON SOUTH AMERICAN TOUR

Port-of-Spain SUNDAY GUARDIAN in English 5 Aug 84 p 1

[Article by John Babb]

[Text] Pope John Paul will visit Trinidad in January next, according to a reliable source.

A Vatican official is due in Port-of-Spain this week in connection with the Pope's visit to Venezuela, Ecuador and Peru.

And it is expected that he will confirm that Pope John Paul will spend at least part of a day in Port-of-Spain, during his scheduled visit to Caracas.

The Papal Nuncio in Port-of-Spain, Monsignor Paul Tabet was unavailable yesterday, but a spokesman at his office confirmed that the Pope has been invited to Trinidad and that a reply was being awaited.

### Diplomatic

The Pope has been asked to come to Trinidad and Tobago by both Church and State. Prime Minister George Chambers wrote inviting him officially, on behalf of the Government and Roman Catholic Archbishop Anthony Pantin has also invited His Holiness on behalf of the church.

Trinidad and Tobago has diplomatic relations with the Vatican, whose representative in Trinidad is Monsignor Tabet, while the Trinidad and Tobago ambassador to Geneva, Dr Henry Major is accredited to the Vatican.

Archbishop Pantin was reported out of the country this weekend attending a teachers' conference in St Vincent, and no information on the visit was available from his office. There was also no word from the Government.

The 'Sunday Guardian' contacted the Vatican Press Office in Rome, hoping to speak with Rev Fr Panciroli, who is head of the Press Office there. He was unavailable and the Guardian was told that no details were yet available concerning the proposed visit.

All we could find out was that efforts were being made to "organise things."

This will be the first visit in history of a Pope to the Caribbean.

Pope John Paul who has travelled extensively has visited both North America as well as Central and South America.

He was in Brazil two years ago and was invited to visit Trinidad and Tobago during the course of that tour, but was unable to do so.

On this trip however, Pope John Paul will be in Venezuela, which is no more than an hour by plane from Caracas to Piarco, and the invitation to him was extended with this in mind.

The Pope usually travels by Italian airline, but sources said it would not be difficult to fly him over from Caracas to Port-of-Spain for even half day.

It has also been suggested that to facilitate his schedule, a BWIA plane could be used to bring him and his entourage to Piarco.

Discussions are being held as to what form the programme here would take to enable as many people as possible to see the Pope.

Suggested possible venues are the Queen's Park Oval, or the National Stadium or a large rally.

The visit of a Pope is being regarded with greatest excitement in Trinidad and Tobago where the Roman Catholics are the largest single religious group. In addition, there have been long traditional links with the various Roman Catholic religious Orders who have been engaged in missionary, education and social work for several years.

CSO: 3298/1067

CHAMBERS SCORES TOBAGO HOUSE FOR POOR PERFORMANCE

Port-of-Spain EXPRESS in English 18 Jul 84 p 1

[Article by Compton Delph]

[Text] Scarborough--Prime Minister George Chambers said yesterday that complaints he had received during his visits to Tobago seemed to suggest that the Tobago House of Assembly is not carrying out the functions delegated to it under the law.

"What the people of Tobago are telling me is that what we have delegated to be done is not being done," said Chambers, in the strongest statement so far during his current visit in Tobago.

If that was so, said the Prime Minister, then he perceived his duties as Minister of Finance to listen to the proposals of the people of Tobago and then take parliamentary action to implement those proposals.

One area for immediate action, he announced, was the stripping of the Assembly of the responsibility for the maintenance and repair of main roads in the island.

This was being done, he said, on the recommendations of Works Minister Hugh Francis, who on Saturday visited Tobago to hand over to him the document which delegated the responsibility for such roads to the Assembly.

He has called upon me to revoke that delegation, said the Prime Minister.

The action, he explained, arose out of widespread dissatisfaction with the repair of Shirvan Road by the Assembly which has been going on for more than three years.

"But there is more to it, the Prime Minister went on. "As Minister of Finance, I would want to know how much has been spent on roads in those three years."

The Prime Minister said that he would be calling for the inventory on the vehicles owned by the Assembly.

"I don't believe there is any agency of the Government where I have seen so many under-utilised vehicles as I have seen since I have been in Tobago," he stated.

"I am not angry," he went on. "I am just saying how money can be misspent."

Amidst shouts of "Is true, is true," and "Is lie, is lie" in the angry voice of a woman, the Prime Minister appealed for silence and at another stage said he did not want to reduce the proceedings to a political meeting.

Addressing reporters covering his visit, Chambers said he wondered whether they grasped what was happening.

More and more of the memoranda presented to him, he went on, complained about matters which rested not with the Central Government but with the Tobago House of Assembly. And he felt that the national community should be made aware of the situation in Tobago.

It should also be made aware, he said, of the threats and harassment made to teachers of a certain school who had brought out the children with flags to cheer him on his way during his previous visit.

"I will like to caution and to warn that if there is any attempt to continue to harass and intimidate the teachers of this school, I will personally intervene and take the strongest possible action to protect the staff of the school.

Chambers also announced that on his next visit to Tobago he would be turning the sod for the new airport terminal at Crown Point.

"I will be back...I will be back...I will be like McArthur," he went on.

CSO: 3298/1067

UNION OFFICER'S HOUSE SEARCHED FOR ARMS, AMMUNITION

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 6 Aug 84 p 3

[Text] Police searched the home of dismissed Chief Grievance Officer of the Brotherhood of Construction and Industrial Workers' Union (BICWU), Mr Evans Maskell, on Saturday looking for arms and ammunition.

But Mr Maskell, who told this to the "Guardian" yesterday, said: "Of course they left without finding anything illegal at my home and I think that search was somehow linked with the struggle I am leading for constructive change in the union.

"I am not accusing the police officers in the raid of any wrong-doing because they are supposed to receive...and I have a very good idea of where such a report could have emanated.

"But nothing of the kind can daunt our efforts towards achieving our aim..."

Mr Maskell spoke at the camp his "Rebel Committee," pitched opposite the union's headquarters on the Southern Main Road, California, from where he, other ex-officers and members have been maintaining a round-the clock vigil on the building.

Union Funds

Dismissed Education and Research Officer Leon Lavia said the camp was to be closed to adopt a new strategy in the "battle" between the "Rebels" and the rest of the nine-man BICWU executive.

In a pamphlet, the "Rebels" have outlined their basic grievances with the executive which they said led to the dismissal of Mr Maskell and Mr Lavia.

The document said both men submitted a "case" said the executive to the Registrar of Trade Unions, the Labour Ministry, the Industrial Court and the Labour Congress about the spending of union funds.

Loans were made to certain persons for which the IOUs (I Owe You) notes were signed, according to the pamphlet.



"As such, this leaves room for non-payment of such loans. An example of this is that a former officer of the union who left in 1982 is still owing the union money taken by way of loan.

"There is also no provision in the union's constitution which governs the granting of loans to members. We are also questioning money spent under the heading 'loss of time'...large sums are being spent and recorded under that heading..."

#### Evade Truth

The "Rebels" are also claiming that since the executive was elected on June 27, 1983, Conference of Delegates has not yet been held even though provided for constitutionally, each year.

They also say that instead of answering the charges, certain executive members were going to job sites "slandering" Mr Maskell and Mr Lavia.

The one-page document added: "The actions of the executive show that they want to evade the truth and hide behind slanders and half-truths. But this will not work. It is now up to the membership of the union to attend the Special Conference of Delegates and demand that the executive account for their actions.

"Every construction worker and member today, more than ever, needs to solidify the union around the Rebels for proper leadership."

CSO: 329-/1068

TOBAGO SPORTS TEAMS SEEK AIR FARE CONCESSIONS FROM GOVERNMENT

Port-of-Spain EXPRESS in English 18 Jul 84 p 25

[Text]

**SPORTING** organisations in Tobago have asked Prime Minister George Chambers, to get airfare concessions for teams having to travel to Trinidad for competition.

Chambers was told that before airfares were increased from \$40 to \$75 Tobago's teams paid a reduced fare of \$22, but this concession was removed by BWIA when the fares went up in January.

The Prime Minister met the sporting organisations Sunday at his Scarborough office as he continued his "working visit" to the island.

He had a quiet weekend, meeting for "private discussions" with members of his People's National Movement. On Sunday morning he hosted a brunch at Pigeon Point for media personnel covering his Tobago visit.

Eric Hovell, President of the Tobago Football

League said Sunday's meeting with the Prime Minister was extremely cordial.

"He has promised to do what he can for us," said Hovell, "and he seems sincere in his interest in our sports."

However, the Prime Minister, according to another source, was frank enough to tell the Tobago sport administrators the proposed regional sporting complex for Tobago to be sited at Lowlands, was out.

Chambers, it is understood, explained the Government, faced with the present financial circumstances of the country, could not allocate funds now for the complex which was expected to cost \$12 million.

So the administrators pressed him for a commitment to improve facilities at Shaw Park and provide lighting for night games.

Shaw Park has been upgraded recently by the

Tobago House of Assembly out of their limited funds. It has been fenced to permit sporting organisations, specifically football clubs, to charge an entrance fee.

Stands have been erected, too, and since then international cricket and football have been played there.

The sportsmen also pressed for national coaches to be appointed in Tobago and raised with Chambers their recent difficulty in obtaining occasional liquor licences to raise their own funds at functions.

They told Chambers the police had been insisting they make such applications through a licensed retail spirit dealer with all the consequences that was involved.

Formerly the clubs applied in their own name for such licences.

"The Prime Minister appeared to be sympathetic to our complaints," Hovell said.

BRIEFS

ALLIANCE, ONR TALKS--Unity talks between the Alliance and the Organisation for National Reconstruction (ONR) on a federation of the parties will continue this week. Tonight at 7.30, ONR speakers will address a public meeting at Aranguez Park when they will report on the progress made since the talks began three weeks ago. The national executives of the two bodies last met on Friday and agreed to continue discussions on what they termed 'the formulation of a Platform for Democracy,' the mapping out of a common policy and programme, and a draft constitution for the National Alliance for Reconstruction. Among these present at Friday's talks held at the Rienzi Complex were Mr A.N.R. Robinson of the Democratic Action Congress (DAC), Mr Beau Tewarie of Tapia, Opposition Leader Mr Basdeo Panday of the United Labour Front (ULF) and Mr Roy Augustus of the ONR. At tonight's meeting, ONR's Deputy Political leader, Mr Suruj Rambachan, Mr Mervyn Assam and County Councillors Deo Ramsingh and Ken Butcher, will speak. The meeting will follow an all-day ONR barbecue and family day bazaar at the Aranguez Park. [Text] [Port-of-Spain SUNDAY GUARDIAN in English 5 Aug 84 p 20]

PROPOSAL FOR DEWD--Minister of Works, Maintenance and Drainage, Mr Hugh Francis has recommended that the financial management of DEWD be placed under the direct control of the Permanent Secretary in his Ministry. It was stated that the strict financial management needed did not seem to exist at present at the DEWD office and, as a result, the Minister has asked Cabinet to consider relocation of DEWD's Accounting Unit with the view of placing it under the Permanent Secretary's control. Although it is felt that relocation of the Unit may present some difficulty due to space constraints, the Minister has suggested that the move be investigated. In addition, there is the decision that all items of expenditure, branded as "overheads" will be subject to approval by the Permanent Secretary. The job of relocation of the DEWD Accounting Unit has been entrusted to the Organisation and Management Division and the Treasury. Not only that, but the Organisation and Management Division is being asked to determine an optimum level of staffing for the area offices of DEWD, as a matter of urgency. The move towards stricter financial control follows runaway expenditure in DEWD over the past few months--from \$2.4 million a fortnight in January to \$12.6 million by mid-July. It is also part of a revised proposed strategy for dealing with DEWD during the remainder of 1984. [Excerpt] [Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 8 Aug 84 p 1]

RISE IN STATE REVENUES--Taxes on income, on goods and services and on international trade have risen sharply to fill the gap opened by the decline in oil revenues. In fact, income tax revenues are now 2.4 times higher than in 1980 and 4.6 times higher than in 1978 while revenues from sales taxes have increased even faster. These observations were made in an information memorandum published by the Ministry of Finance and Planning. According to the memorandum, the 1984 Budget projected total revenues to increase by \$704 million or 10.6 percent over 1983 to reach \$7,315 million. It noted that recurrent revenues accounted for over 99 percent of total revenues but where in 1980 almost two-thirds of recurrent revenues originated in the oil sector, it is estimated that in 1983 and 1984 only about one-third is being contributed to recurrent revenues by the oil sector. Outlining this point in further detail, the memorandum said budget estimates for 1984 indicate that the oil sector's contribution in the current fiscal year will drop to 34 percent from 37 percent of total revenue contributed last year and 52 percent in 1982. In its analysis of the financing of the state's capital expenditure programme, the memorandum said domestic sources of finance excluding borrowing, will finance two-thirds of total central government capital expenditure. [Text] [Port-of-Spain EXPRESS in English 18 Jul 84 p 1]

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